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DAYS Emmy Drama!

CASTING SHOCKERS!

Camila Banus Quits DAYS!

Charles Shaughnessy On GH Exit

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The Truth Revealed: PHYLLIS IS ALIVE!

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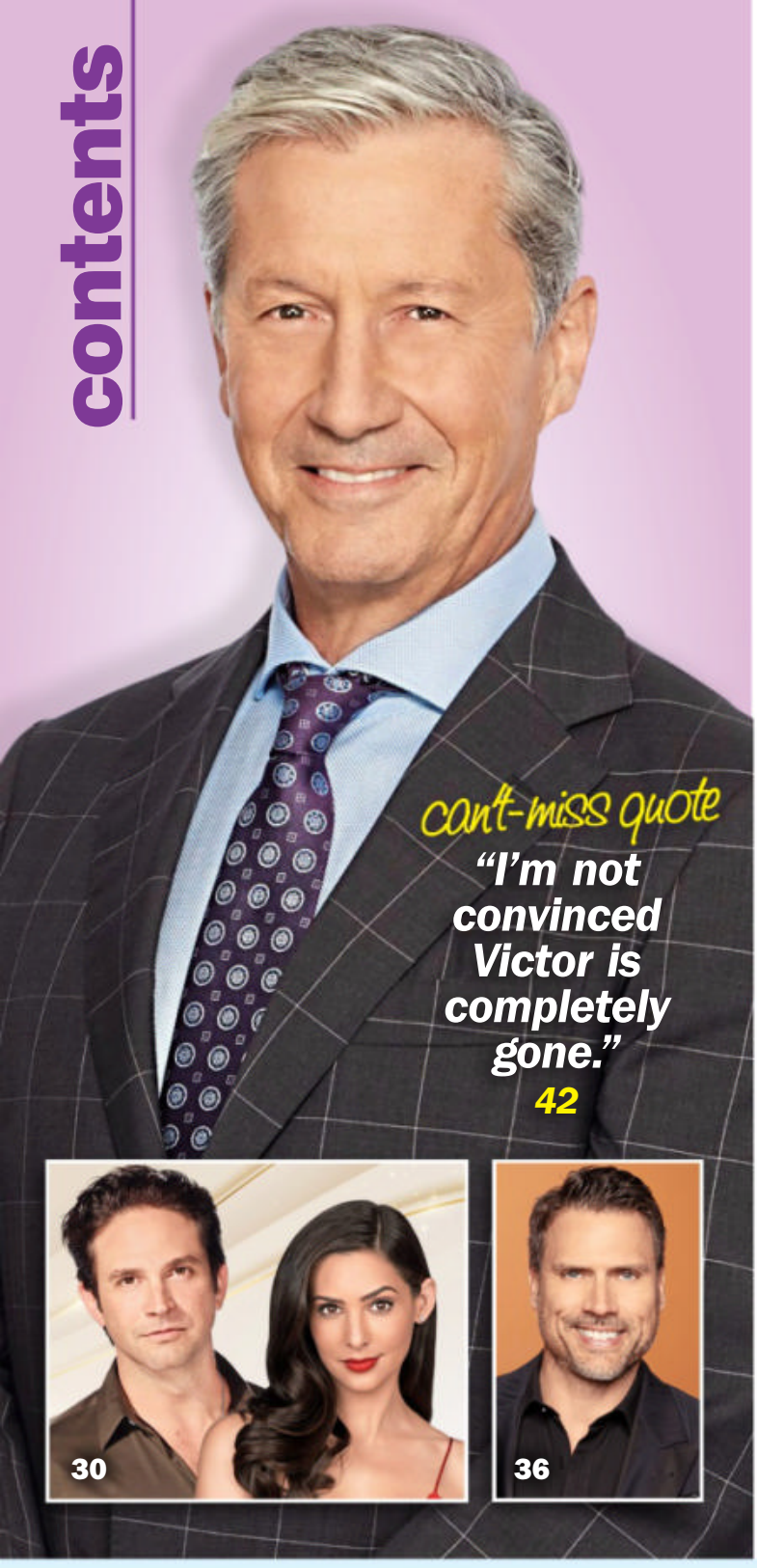

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COVER CREDITS: Michael Graziadei, Christian J. LeBlanc, Michelle Stafford and Michael Mealor (Daniel, Michael, Phyllis and Kyle, Y&R). Photos: Howard Wise/JPI. Peter Bergman (Jack, Y&R). Photo: Sonja Flemming/CBS. Alison Sweeney (ex-Sami, DAYS) and Cameron Mathison (Drew, GH). Photo: Bettina Strauss/Hallmark Media. Camila Banus (Gabi, DAYS). Photo: Howard Wise/Peacock. Charles Shaughnessy (Victor, GH). Photo: Craig Sjodin/ABC.

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PETER PORTE ON JOINING DAYS

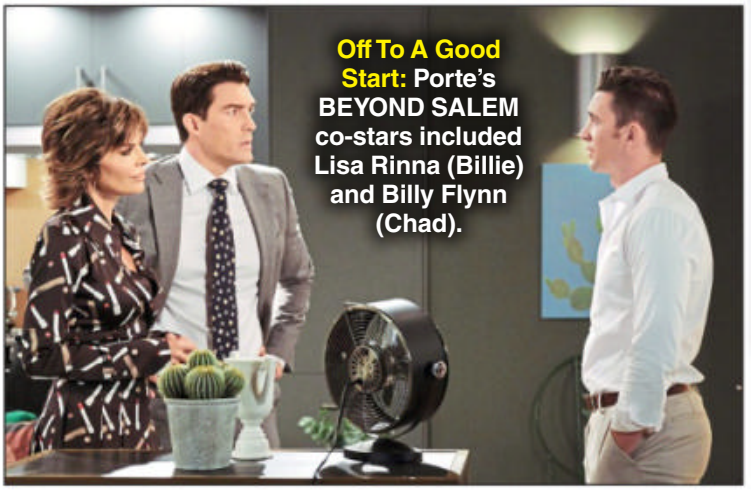
PHOTOS: XJ JOHNSON/JPI

Peter Porte (ex-Ricky, Y&R) admits he never expected for his alter ego, Dimitri von Leuschner, to be woven into the fabric of DAYS after he wrapped filming on the miniseries BEYOND SALEM. "No, no," he says. "When I was invited to the Daytime Emmys [in 2022, where BS was nominated for Drama Series], I was like, 'Should I go to this? This is kind of weird, right? I've been in a handful of episodes and I don't know the rest of the cast, but when is the next time that I'm gonna be invited to the Daytime Emmys? I should just go, I'm never gonna do soaps again. I'm sure that this is the end.' And so I went and I felt like I was literally wedding crashing."

So when he was contacted about a return, it was a surprise. "Lo and behold, I got the call and it was to just check my availability and I said, 'Oh, okay. Sure. Yeah, I'm available,' " he recalls. "I thought they were throwing me in for another episode and then they offered the contract and I was shocked. I was shocked, and so excited. I'm very excited for the viewers just to see how many twists the storyline of Dimitri von Leuschner goes through in a very short amount of time."

Porte admits he battled nerves before arriving at the studio on day one. "My first scene back, I'm in an interrogation room with Steve Burton [Harris] and Stephen Nichols [Steve], the two Steves that are pros and icons in the genre, and it was a very intense interrogation scene," he relays. "So it was intimidating, but they were both incredible and put me at ease. The speed at which you are thrust into the pool and expected to perform is intoxicating and it's nerve-racking, but they showed me the ropes that first day, and it took me a second and then you get the hang of it and you're like, 'Oh, it's just like riding a bike.' "

Because the character was introduced as ISA agent Kyle Graham in BS, then revealed to be Dimitri in the final episode, the actor says he had to find the character when he showed up on the fishing boat with Kate. "Without giving away too much, I will say this: I was walking into this clueless because there's a hard pivot and we introduced who this character really is for three pages of dialogue," he explains. "So it was a blank slate besides 'Eastern European bad guy'. We started filming and things move very quickly, so there's not a lot of time to sit down and really muse over which way to go with the character with the executive producer and the writers because everyone has 100 things going on and you're kind of left to your own devices to slowly build. And that's the fun thing about being on every day, that you really have the time to develop a character before the audience's eyes. I don't know where the story is going, so it's a surprise to *us* every week, and I'm like, 'Oh, wow, okay.' You can't really have hard and fast ways of deciding how to play a character because they're going to turn it on its head next week. So it's about being flexible. It's about receiving the material that you get and making a bold choice. The fun thing that I've experienced over this is taking this really aggressive, broken, hardened character and he now is very expressive as to what he is feeling. He is still a broken person, but he has a very good heart and he's just learning how to use it."



Off To A Good Start: Porte's BEYOND SALEM co-stars included Lisa Rinna (Billie) and Billy Flynn (Chad).

Working with Lauren Koslow (Kate) in his early days was a plus, he reports. "She's gorgeous and she's such a pro. She's been on the show forever. She was a wonderful dinner companion on a ship." He was also happy to reconnect with Billy Flynn (Chad), with whom he shared scenes in BEYOND SALEM. "Oh, my gosh, Billy is great. Billy is such a sweet guy and so talented and he just got nominated for a Daytime Emmy. So, congratulations."

Though DAYS keeps him busy, Porte has other projects in the works. "I have two movies in post-production," he says. "One is YULETIDE THE KNOT, about a wedding at Christmas, and then the other one is called DANCE OF THE HEART. Those are two movies that I shot last year that I had a wonderful time doing. Stay tuned to see where they land." He also volunteers his time. "Whenever I get an opportunity, I do a lot of work with Project Angel Food [www.angelfood.org], so any kind of support that you can send their way would be greatly appreciated."

Overall, though, he's excited about returning to the daytime community 11 years after wrapping in Genoa City. "It's been amazing being back," he concludes. "I always wanted to come back because I think it is the closest to live theater that we have on this coast, and that's where I got my start. I also am very fortunate to be working with a writing team that is very talented and cares about these characters. And the people that I've been paired with on this show are everything. The cast that I've had the privilege of working with has perhaps been my favorite experience so far."

GH: TRINA TAKES THE PATERNITY TEST

Now that the threat of Victor is behind her and she's safely home in Port Charles, Trina decides it's time to get answers about who her biological father is, Taggert or Curtis.

According to Tabyana Ali (Trina), "Her perspective on that has changed because of the circumstances that were happening on that ship [*The Haunted Star*]. That was very life-or-death and this [paternity issue] has been such a big question mark in her life. So now, she feels like if she has a chance to get the truth, she is gonna do whatever she can to get it."

Spencer is by Trina's side when she, Curtis and Taggert show up to G.H. to undergo testing, and there is some lingering mother/daughter tension when they encounter Portia. "It's like any other mother/daughter relationship," Ali offers. "Just because they went through something doesn't mean that Trina doesn't love her. Trina knows that her mother has her back. Trina is going to be stung by the situation that they went through, but after not knowing if she was going to live or die, it's like, 'I would rather go home to my mother happy and full of love rather than hold a grudge and die!' "

Portia chafes at Spencer's presence, unhappy that the ordeal he and Trina weathered has only solidified their bond as a couple — but from Trina's perspective, that's nothing but a good thing. "When you go through such a traumatic or hard time with somebody and come through it together, it kind of fuses you closer," the actress notes. "That's the case for Trina and Spencer. Almost losing someone, or thinking you could die, it does something to the brain, to the psyche. It's like, 'We overcame this together and there's no way we're leaving each other now! How *could* we go in opposite directions right now?' "

Pop Culture: Trina (Ali, l.) and Portia (Brook Kerr) are on the verge of discovering who Trina's bio dad is.

CHRISTINE BARTOLUCCI/ABC

"I don't think she entirely wants to face that truth."

While at the hospital, Trina checks in with Spencer about how things are going at home now that he's sharing living quarters with Esme in order to be near Ace. Says Ali, "Nearly dying makes you think about things differently. Beforehand, Trina was a little uneasy with the idea of Spencer getting closer, not necessarily to Esme, but to his baby brother, which means that he would be around Esme. She was a little edgy about it. And now, I don't want to say that that has entirely [changed], but she's seen the gravity of what he's willing to do to fight for his little brother, and she wants him to be able to have his family."

Especially with the future of her own in doubt. "She's going to follow through on this test, but she's nervous," Ali asserts. "I don't think she entirely wants to face that truth."

B&B: HOPE OPENS UP TO THOMAS

After they get stuck in San Francisco, Thomas does everything possible to get a nervous Hope back to L.A. and her husband. "This was a last-minute trip and Thomas knows it put Hope in an awkward position with Liam, since he still has strong feelings about Thomas," states Matthew Atkinson (Thomas). "He knows it's very important for her to get home, so he pulls whatever strings he can, whether it's flying commercial or renting a car to drive back. The plane they were going to take has a malfunction but by a stroke of luck, it is fixed so they're able to take the same plane back."

In Flight Entertainment: Hope (Annika Noelle) attempts to tell Thomas (Atkinson) her true feelings.

HOWARD WISE/JPI

In their joint relief, the pair almost shares a kiss, but despite the romantic tension, Thomas is still unaware of Hope's true feelings for him. "Thomas has gotten to a place where he has fully moved on," explains Atkinson. "He has dealt with the sorrow and mourning of a relationship he wished he could have. He has dealt with his own issues which drove him to his obsession. He has dealt with the mental issues in perceiving things. He's had surgery. He genuinely loves Hope but he doesn't think about her in that way. It's not a romantic love. He cares for her and wants her to be happy, so when these things are coming up, the last thing he would ever consider is that Hope is romantically interested in him."

"The last thing he would ever consider is that Hope is romantically interested in him."

On the flight home, Hope attempts to come clean with Thomas, who thinks she is just grateful for his co-parenting with Douglas and for all the work he has done to make her line a success. "Thomas reassures Hope that it makes sense she'd be apprehensive with him," the actor relays. "He asserts that there is nothing going on with him and that he puts her marriage first and he respects it."

During their bonding moment, Hope confesses to Thomas that she fears she's more like Brooke than she thought. Thomas quickly assures her that she is not. "When Hope expresses this, he says that could not be further from the truth," Atkinson stresses. "Thomas reminds her that he has known both of these women for a very long time. He knows that Hope is not at all like her mother. People see Hope as a genuinely wonderful and honest human. Thomas knows Brooke has made a lot of mistakes, especially on the romantic side of things, but he also knows that Hope could not, in any way, be that way."

Y&R: WILL KYLE COME CLEAN THAT PHYLLIS IS ALIVE?

The Big Lie: Kyle (Mealor, r.) weighs in on the Phyllis drama with (from l.) Jack (Peter Bergman), Michael (Christian J. LeBlanc) and Daniel (Michael Graziadei).

HOWARD WISE/JPI

In the Abbott living room, Kyle, Jack and Michael reel from Daniel's news that Phyllis is alive but on the run. "The last thing you ever expect to hear is that a month after believing someone's dead, they're not," says Michael Mealor (Kyle). "It's shocking and also very alarming in a way because we all know Phyllis and that she doesn't just do things for fun. There's always a reason, there's always a motive, and Kyle believes that Summer and Diane should be told right away."

However, Michael stresses that they need to stay quiet until they can find solid evidence to prove Phyllis wasn't incinerated in the vehicle explosion. "Michael wants to wait and see how this plays out because this revelation can affect so many different lives in different ways," Mealor explains. "Kyle disagrees and goes, 'Look, there have been enough secrets. There's been enough pain and enough tears. We need to all heal from this so that we can intelligently move forward.' He believes Daniel's claim is all the evidence they need."

Jack agrees with Michael so as not to get anyone's hopes up prematurely, but before Kyle can voice his opposition, Diane comes downstairs and interrupts their conversation. She assumes Daniel is present because he's checking on Summer. "When Diane expresses her condolences to Daniel about the loss of his mother, you can tell that he's on the verge of blurting something," the actor shares. "Then he just says, 'You're not going to prison,' which really impacts Diane. She thanks him for giving her some hope."

> *"Without a doubt this is a moral dilemma."*

After Diane leaves the room, Kyle rails at Jack and Michael for not telling the truth to Diane. Once again, they emphasize the need for hard evidence. "I'd like to think that Kyle has emotionally checked out and didn't hear that," Mealor chuckles. "Without a doubt this is a moral dilemma that could cause Kyle to go rogue and do what he thinks is best."

DAYS: DIMITRI FACES OFF WITH HARRIS

After Chad, Steve and Harris split up on the fishing boat in order to rescue Kate, they find themselves in danger. Harris overpowers his foe, then comes to Steve's aid, while Chad searches for Kate, who is with Dimitri. "Kate is leverage in order to get something that Dimitri needs," begins his portrayer, Peter Porte. "Not only for him but for someone very important to him. Dimitri is not a terrible guy. He just has strange ways of getting what he wants, so he invited her to dinner."

Ship Shape: Harris (Steve Burton, l.) and Steve (Stephen Nichols, r.) try to take Dimitri (Porte) down.

XJ JOHNSON/JPI

Chad bursts in on their meal, which doesn't please Dimitri. "He's a nuisance," sniffs Porte. "Dimitri knows something that Chad doesn't, so I think that Dimitri might have the upper hand in many ways in the scene." Chad offers to take Kate's place as Dimitri's hostage, but Dimitri decides that he is just going to kill Chad and Kate. Steve and Harris arrive just in time, which gives Kate a chance to free herself.

Meanwhile, on the boat, Dimitri assures Harris that he is not going to prison because he has another hostage that they do not know about. Dimitri expresses confidence that he'll be released soon. "It's kind of poetic, the way he speaks during these monologues," notes Porte of his alter ego. "He's in a different emotional state."

"A good bad guy always has more than one trick up his sleeve."

Harris is sure he is bluffing, but Dimitri states his request for full immunity won't be limited to himself. "He knows Harris has been brainwashed before, so Dimitri knows that he can be manipulated," adds the actor. "But he needs friends, he needs people in Salem. He's very strategic that way and Machiavellian, where he knows that it's always in his best interest to play sweet and figure out a way to use people rather than just dispense with them."

Dimitri then reveals that his very special hostage is what guarantees him success. "A good bad guy always has more than one trick up his sleeve," points out Porte. "He has a much more powerful hostage and it was all truly a bait and switch so that everyone would have their eyes on Kate, but the main hostage was always [someone else]. And so ultimately, they may have to give Dimitri what he needs, which is immunity."

JASPER NEWMAN ON DAYS GIG

Jasper Newman sums up his DAYS alter ego prophetically, yet concisely. "He's a charming, misunderstood bad boy with a heart full of twisted love," says the actor, who's portraying Sloan's calculating brother, Colin. "I love playing characters like this. You can perceive them, like with his vendetta against Paulina and Chanel, to just be evil. When you're working on something like this, you have to look at the humanity of who they are first and see they're not just a hateful person. Sometimes the pain comes out of love. It turns out their vendetta is the only way they know to get their strong feelings out."

Originally from London, Newman already knew all about soaps. "There are a few that are huge over in England," he notes. "My mum and my sister would watch EASTENDERS, CORONATION STREET and HOLLYOAKS. Every now and again, I would sit down and watch them, too. And I knew about DAYS OF OUR LIVES. I knew how big it was. It's on a much bigger scale than soaps were in England. And I knew it was a very different style from other features and shorts that I've been involved in."

XJ JOHNSON/JPI

Though he's done a host of other projects, "I didn't know what to expect," he admits of his new soap role. "It is a very different style of shooting than I'd been used to. For me, it's right in the middle of theater and filming for TV or features because of the amount of dialogue you have, and we're moving so quickly. It was incredible coming onto the stage and seeing everything being prepared and ready to go. You can chat and get to know everyone and bring it to life in front of the crew, the producers and the directors. It's been a brilliant experience with a lot of the different people there."

Among those who eased his way into Colin, Newman cites Casting Director Marnie Saitta as "one of the biggest helps. She's been huge and in my corner, just helping explain everything from day one, answering any questions and helping mentally prepare me for it. For me that was important, knowing as much about what I was going into beforehand, so I can just focus on what I'm there to do."

Co-star Aketra Sevillian (Talia) has been "incredible" too. "It became fun and playful between the two of us," recounts Newman. "Whenever I would feel like I messed up or had done something wrong, she would reassure me that it was okay. That we were going to carry on and get the scene done to the best of our ability. She was very supportive and helpful, as were a few of the other co-stars. I was chatting with people about maybe doubting myself a little bit, and they were like, 'No, don't worry. You're doing fine.' Everyone was great. I came in a little bit nervous, but then I relaxed into it."

Along the way, Newman feels he's done some interesting work, too. "It was great diving into the many layers that Colin has and getting to understand him on a much deeper level," he says. "I also enjoyed being able to play with the role so much and going to all of the extremes of all of his emotions. It's been great sinking my teeth into him."

EARLY EDITIONS!

A preview of next week's stories.

BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL

- Taylor learns an inconvenient truth.
- **Bill gives Liam sage advice.**
- Hope's conflicting emotions intensify.

B&B's Bill (Don Diamont)

PHOTOS: HOWARD WISE/JPI

GH's Chase (Josh Swickard)

CRAIG SJODIN/ABC

GENERAL HOSPITAL

- Nina is in for a shock.
- **Chase makes a romantic gesture.**
- Portia voices her gratitude.

DAYS's Jada (Elia Cantu, l.) and Sloan (Jessica Serfaty)

XJ JOHNSON/JPI

DAYS OF OUR LIVES

- Rafe rushes Abe to the hospital.
- **Jada grills Sloan.**
- Johnny confesses to Gabi.
- John visits Paul.

YOUNG AND RESTLESS

- **Ashley creates boundaries with Tucker.**
- Sharon receives a mysterious gift.
- Chance uncovers new evidence.
- Victor worries about Vicky.

Y&R's Ashley (Eileen Davidson) and Tucker (Trevor St. John)

RATINGS RACE: WEEK OF APRIL 17

The numbers listed after each show are ratings points. Each ratings point represents 1,238,000 homes. These numbers now reflect DVR playback within the same day.

- YOUNG AND RESTLESS 2.28
- BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL 2.02
- GENERAL HOSPITAL 1.44

** DAYS's ratings are not available from Peacock.*

NIELSEN MEDIA RESEARCH

Comings and Goings

the latest cast changes

CHRISTINE BARTOLUCCI/ABC

Morgan (l.) and Susan check back into GH.

ERIC CHARBONNEAU/SHUTTERSTOCK

Camila says so long to Salem.

who's coming

BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL

Ken Hanes (Mike Guthrie): Sheila's (**Kimberlin Brown**) jailhouse bud is back on May 17.

GENERAL HOSPITAL

Susan Batten (Flora Gardens) and Morgan Fairchild (Haven de Havilland): Batten, best known as ONE LIFE TO LIVE's Luna, and soap vet Fairchild (ex-Sydney, THE CITY et al) are back on the Port Charles scene this week as home-shopping celebs who will intersect with Sasha (**Sofia Mattsson**). They last appeared in 2022.

Alley Mills (Heather Webber): Mills told *Digest* that she has been asked back to the show as Heather for an upcoming story arc, and happily agreed to return.

who's going

DAYS OF OUR LIVES

Camila Banus (Gabi Hernandez): The actress has opted out of the show she first joined in 2010. She taped her last episode on April 28; look for Gabi to leave Salem this fall. In an interview with *The Wrap*, Banus said, "There's definitely been a lot of changes at DAYS the last couple of years, one

REAL-LIFE STATUS

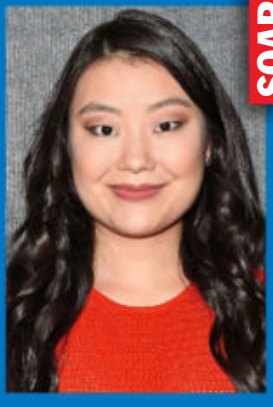
ARLENE RICHIE/JPI

Split Decision: Richard Burgi (ex-Ashland, Y&R et al) revealed in an emotional Instagram message that he and Liliana Lopez, who he married in 2012, have divorced. "A friend of mine informed me that I am still listed as married on IMDb and Wikipedia, etc," he said. "It has been a very trying year and a half. After losing a great job for something that had nothing to do with my work as an artist, and then, with much difficulty, my second marriage ended." He went on to note, "Divorce is painful and devastating but the good Lord has a way of leading you to things you need and away from things that you don't. The loss of a job, relationship, or any other important thing is like a death and takes time, good friends and family or nurturing people and places to get through." He concluded his post by declaring, "I am in a great place and grateful for this beautiful life... Onward!"

being moving to Peacock. Although it's been wonderful and we've had a super-great reception, for me, I felt like that was kind of like the initial start for changes happening in general. And I kind of just saw that as a sign for me to start the next chapter in my life." She also indicated that she was willing to stay but couldn't come to terms with the soap. "I was, honestly, open to renegotiating a certain type of shooting schedule where I would have a little bit more time off. But they didn't go for it. And certain other factors that were involved that they didn't go for," she added. For more on Banus and co-star **Brandon Barash** (Stefan), see p. 30.

GENERAL HOSPITAL
Charles Shaughnessy (Victor Cassadine): The actor has completed his stint as the maniacal Cassadine patriarch. See page 42 for more.

DAYS's Victoria Grace Rescinds Emmy Nomination



XJ JOHNSON/JPI

Victoria Grace (Wendy, DAYS) has rescinded her Daytime Emmy nomination in the Younger Performer category. The actress announced the news on her Twitter and Instagram accounts, posting, "I was honored to be nominated for a Daytime Emmy and to be recognized by the Academy. Unfortunately, there was a huge misunderstanding across the board regarding the rules for this year's category. This is obviously a surprise and I am heartbroken, but in fairness to all, I'll be rescinding my nomination. I wish the best of luck to all of the nominees. I will continue to work hard to earn another Daytime Emmy nomination next year!" The cutoff age for the category is 18; it was 25 in the past.

JOSH FLAGG ON DAYS ROLE

GREGORY PACE/SHUTTERSTOCK

MILLION DOLLAR LISTING: LOS ANGELES star **Josh Flagg** was intrigued when he was approached to play DAYS's Yuri. "I think that they thought it was a good match for the character," recalls Flagg of how the role came his way. "They said I was very similar to the character, so I guess I didn't have to do much acting."

Performing wasn't new to Flagg. "When I was a kid I did some TV movies and I also did theater camp," he shares. As a result, he wasn't battling nerves on day one. "No, not at all," he shares. "I mean, I have a pretty good memory and memorizing lines is not that difficult. I did a little improv on some of the lines and they didn't mind. So I didn't hit every line exactly the way it was, but we didn't do any retakes. So I guess they liked my tweaks."

In the scenes that aired May 12, tech giant Yuri met with Stephanie (**Abigail Klein**) and Alex (**Robert Scott Wilson**) for a potential Titan venture. "We did a few scenes and it was good fun," he reports. "They were lovely to work with. Very, very friendly, very easy-going. It was very quick. We didn't spend hours on the scenes. It was super-easy, good synergy."

Flagg reveals that there were some MDL viewers on the set. "Quite a few people were fans of the show. It's been on for over 15 years. It's a fun show and people really enjoy watching it." But he's the first to admit he never expected to still be a part of it. "When I started the show, I was 21 years old. I'm now 37. I never thought in my wildest ideas I'd be filming 16 years later. I would say after four or five years, I thought, 'Oh, okay. Well, this has got to wrap up after a while,' but it kept going. And the ratings just keep going up every year. I think that says a lot. We're one of the oldest shows on Bravo and we have a really loyal fan base."

Flagg, who was familiar with the soap — "I watched DAYS OF OUR LIVES when I was a kid here and there. Everyone knows DAYS OF OUR LIVES" — would be open to a return at some point. "It would be my absolute pleasure; I really enjoyed it," he enthuses. "I look forward to doing more with DAYS. They're a wonderful group of people and I think it's a fantastic show."

Hot Plots Pr

BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL
Sheila Summons Finn

Sheila asks Finn to visit her in jail. "She was a little surprised because she didn't know if it would work or not, but because of the heart issue, you can request to see the attending physician who took care of you," explains Kimberlin Brown (Sheila). "She put that out there to try and get her son to see her. When he shows up, she is surprised but pleasantly so."

Sheila tells Finn that she is hoping Jack will help her get out of prison. "Sheila sees Jack as being on the outside looking in, as well," Brown asserts. "Oftentimes in that position, people do better in pairs. Sheila is hopeful that Jack will at least consider the possibility of helping Sheila, based on the fact that they have past history and they have a son together."

Sheila then opens up to Finn and says she wants to repair their relationship. "He didn't have to, but the fact that he showed up speaks volumes," smiles Brown. "To Sheila, the door may certainly not be wide open, but there may be a crack."

The Son Also Rises: Sheila (Brown) is thrilled when Finn (Tanner Novlan) shows up for a visit.

PHOTOS: HOWARD WISE/JPI

Now Hear This: Nick (Morrow) fears that Victoria (Amelia Heinle) is ignoring his well-meaning advice.

YOUNG AND RESTLESS
Nick Warns Victoria

Victoria and Nate are making out in her office when they're interrupted by Nick. "Nick knows better to knock before he goes into his sister's office," chuckles Joshua Morrow (Nick). "He knows that it's a real possibility that she's in there with Nate, doing what they're not supposed to be doing."

Nick's suspicions are confirmed when he enters to find that his sister and Nate are out of breath with rumpled clothes. After Nate leaves, Nick issues a warning to Victoria. "Nate could be using her to get ahead in the company," Morrow explains. "It's obvious that he's very ambitious and Nick strongly advises that she put an end to whatever is going on between them. But in true Newman style, Victoria doesn't like to be told what to do."

Will Nick keep his opinions to himself? "Oh, he'll never stay quiet," Morrow assures. "Nick believes this could become really messy but Victoria doesn't seem concerned. He's 100 percent positive that this won't end well if nothing is done."

eview! What Will Happen

DAYS OF OUR LIVES
Talia Wants Out

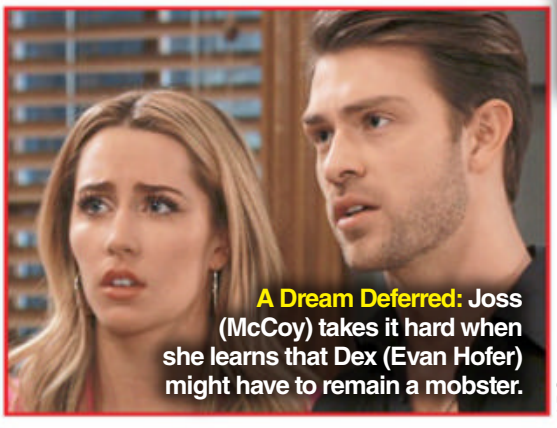
Talia's guilt over plotting against Chanel starts to get the best of her. "Talia's a good girl," explains her portrayer, Aketra Sevillian. "She goes by the book when it comes to morals and values. Talia's trying not to upset her lover, yet trying to keep [true to] herself. She's kind of stuck between a rock and a hard place. When she came to Salem, she was fully focused on attacking what Colin wanted her to do. Now, Talia sees what Chanel has already gone through and making her life harder is eating at her."

When Colin tells Talia that Sloan confronted him and told him to leave town, it strikes a chord with Talia. "Now the pressure is not just on Talia. Now his sister is involved," says Sevillian. "There's someone other than Talia pushing a different narrative. She feels a sense of relief that someone is giving her an out."

Colin, however, decides to stay put and guilts Talia into continuing to seduce Chanel. "Talia continues the plan, but she feels terrible about it," sighs the actress. "Her moral compass is starting to eat away at her. She doesn't want to upset Colin, but she doesn't want to hurt Chanel."

Stuck In The Middle With You: Talia (Sevillian, l.) feels guilty for duping Chanel (Raven Bowens).

XJ JOHNSON/JPI



A Dream Deferred: Joss (McCoy) takes it hard when she learns that Dex (Evan Hofer) might have to remain a mobster.

ABC

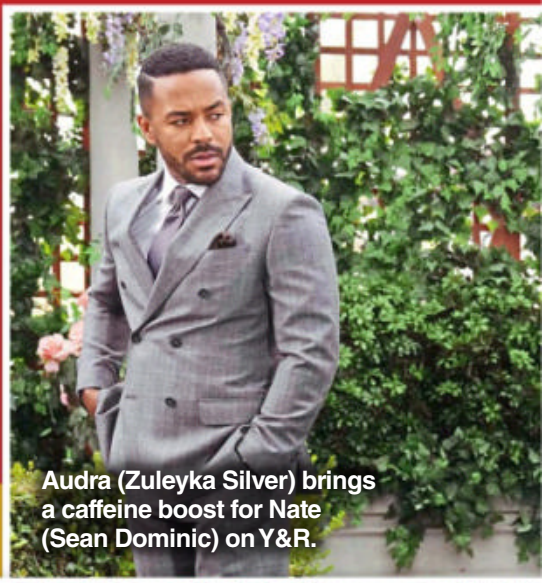
GENERAL HOSPITAL
Dex Breaks Bad News to Joss

Josslyn is thunderstruck when Dex informs her of Michael's decision not to use the evidence he has compiled against Sonny, throwing her future with Dex into question.

"It's a life-changing moment," begins Eden McCoy (Josslyn). "It goes without saying how important Dex is to Josslyn, and [not revealing Dex and Michael's plan] has been this whole big spider web of secrecy and pressure. To know that it might have been for nothing is devastating." Especially now that Dex is left without a clear path to extricate himself from Sonny's organization. "Josslyn has been trying to get away from that world and she's been very clear about it to Dex," McCoy notes. "She's scared that she might end up losing another important male figure in her life. She's seen this movie, you know? She saw it growing up with her mom. So, it's a very messy situation and for Joss, it's really coming from a place of fear — and it will be interesting to see how things unfold and how far Joss will go to keep Dex in her life."

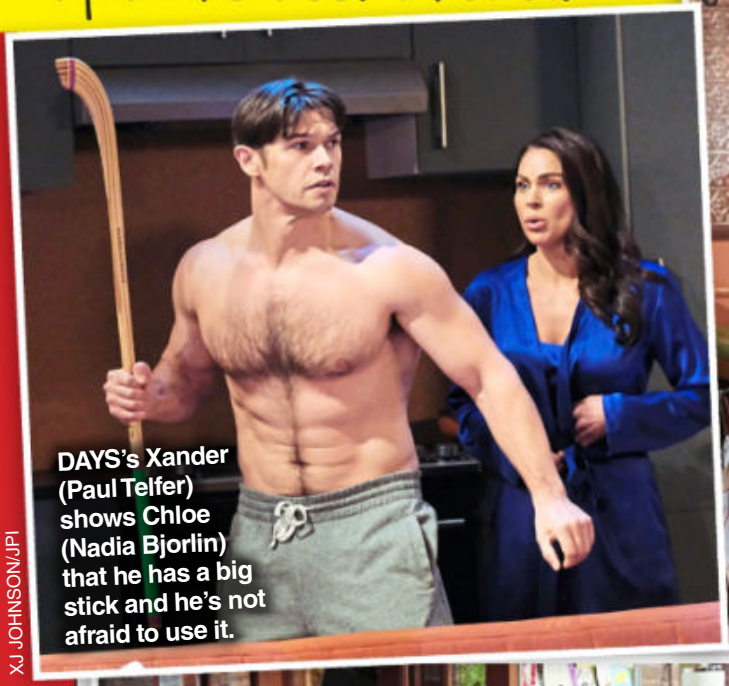
1st sneak peek LOOK photos

A glimpse of what's coming up in the week ahead!



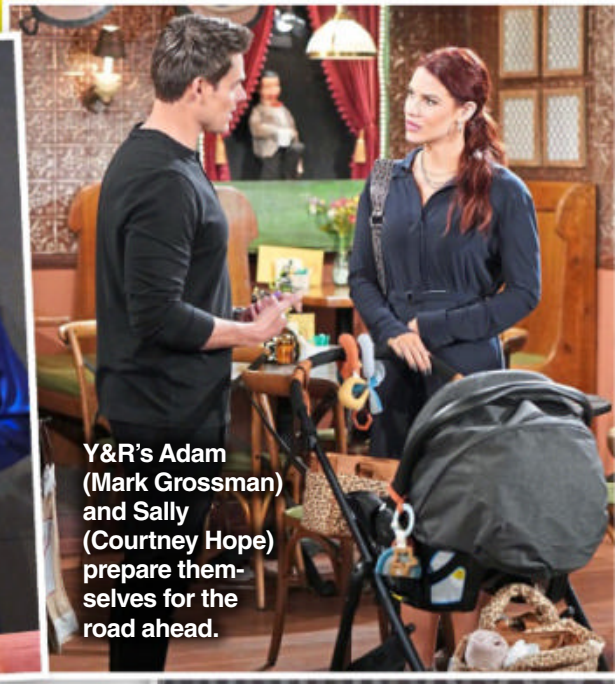
PHOTOS: HOWARD WISE/JPI

Audra (Zuleyka Silver) brings a caffeine boost for Nate (Sean Dominic) on Y&R.

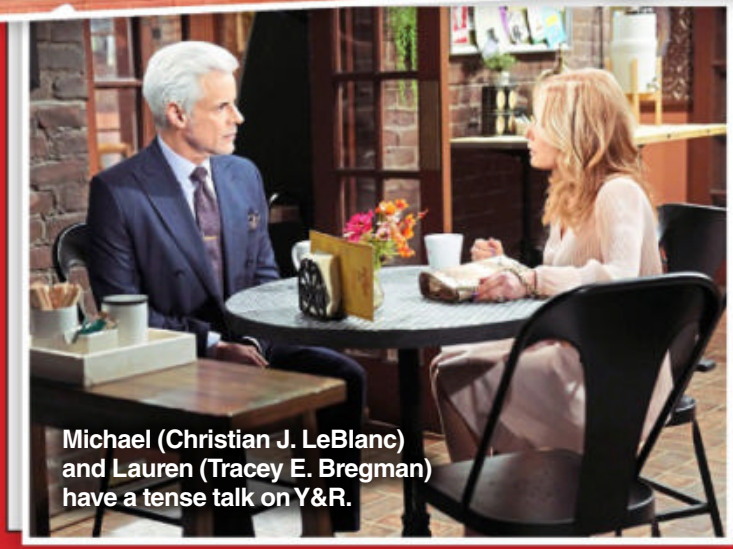


XJ JOHNSON/JPI

DAYS's Xander (Paul Telfer) shows Chloe (Nadia Bjorlin) that he has a big stick and he's not afraid to use it.

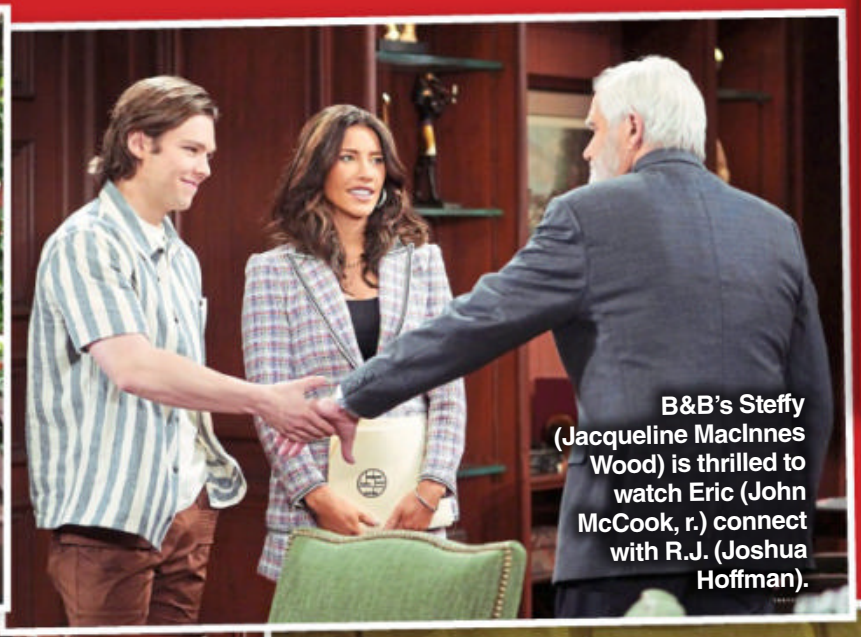


Y&R's Adam (Mark Grossman) and Sally (Courtney Hope) prepare themselves for the road ahead.



Michael (Christian J. LeBlanc) and Lauren (Tracey E. Bregman) have a tense talk on Y&R.

XJ JOHNSON/JPI

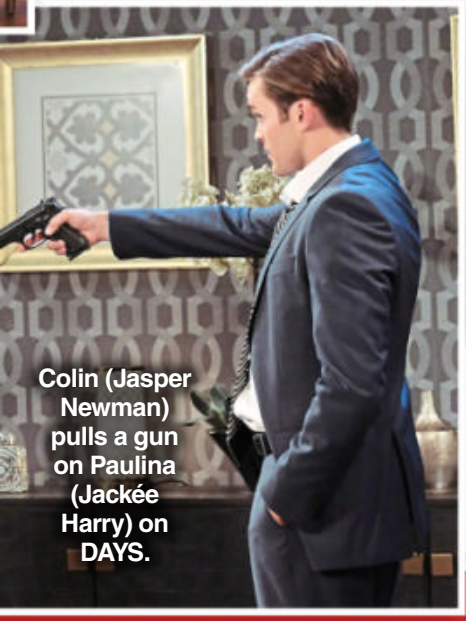


B&B's Steffy (Jacqueline MacInnes Wood) is thrilled to watch Eric (John McCook, r.) connect with R.J. (Joshua Hoffman).

Brooke (Katherine Kelly Lang) peeks into the CEO office on B&B.

DAYS's Roman (Josh Taylor) is thrilled to have Kate (Lauren Koslow) home.

XJ JOHNSON/JPI



Colin (Jasper Newman) pulls a gun on Paulina (Jackée Harry) on DAYS.

Y&R's Tessa (Cait Fairbanks, l.) and Mariah (Camryn Grimes) enjoy some pillow talk.

BEHIND the SCENES!

Social snaps of stars on set.

TWITTER/BANDBCBS

B&B's Jacqueline MacInnes Wood (Steffy) had fun with her alter ego's love interests past and present, Tanner Novlan (Finn, l.) and Scott Clifton (Liam).

INSTAGRAM/KOSLOW

"THIS GOOD MAN - congrats @inlike billyflynn [Chad] on your leading actor @daytimeemmys nomination - well deserved my friend!" enthused DAYS's Lauren Koslow (Kate).

INSTAGRAM/MCCOOK

Dan McVicar (ex-Clarke, far r.) paid a visit to his old B&B stomping grounds and chatted with Katherine Kelly Lang (Brooke) and John McCook (Eric).

GH's Kelly Monaco (Sam, l.) and Eden McCoy (Josslyn) busted a move while filming Michael and Willow's wedding.

INSTAGRAM/MCCOY

Kate Linder (Esther, Y&R) took a seat on the couch at THE LATE LATE SHOW WITH JAMES CORDEN as the host wrapped his run.

INSTAGRAM/LINDER

INSTAGRAM/MOORE

Shemar Moore (ex-Malcolm, Y&R, near l.) promoted Taye Diggs's (ex-Sugar Hill, GUIDING LIGHT, c.) appearance on S.W.A.T. in an episode directed by Jay Harrington.

INSTAGRAM/HALL

"Powerful scenes yesterday!!" enthused DAYS's Deidre Hall (Marlena), with Eric Martsolf (Brady).

INSTAGRAM/MORGAN

"And that's a wrap on Lisa Wade & SPIRAL!!!!" reported Mishael Morgan (Amanda, Y&R). "Thank you to everyone who brought their A game! I am so blessed to be surrounded by so many talented people, both in front and behind the camera."

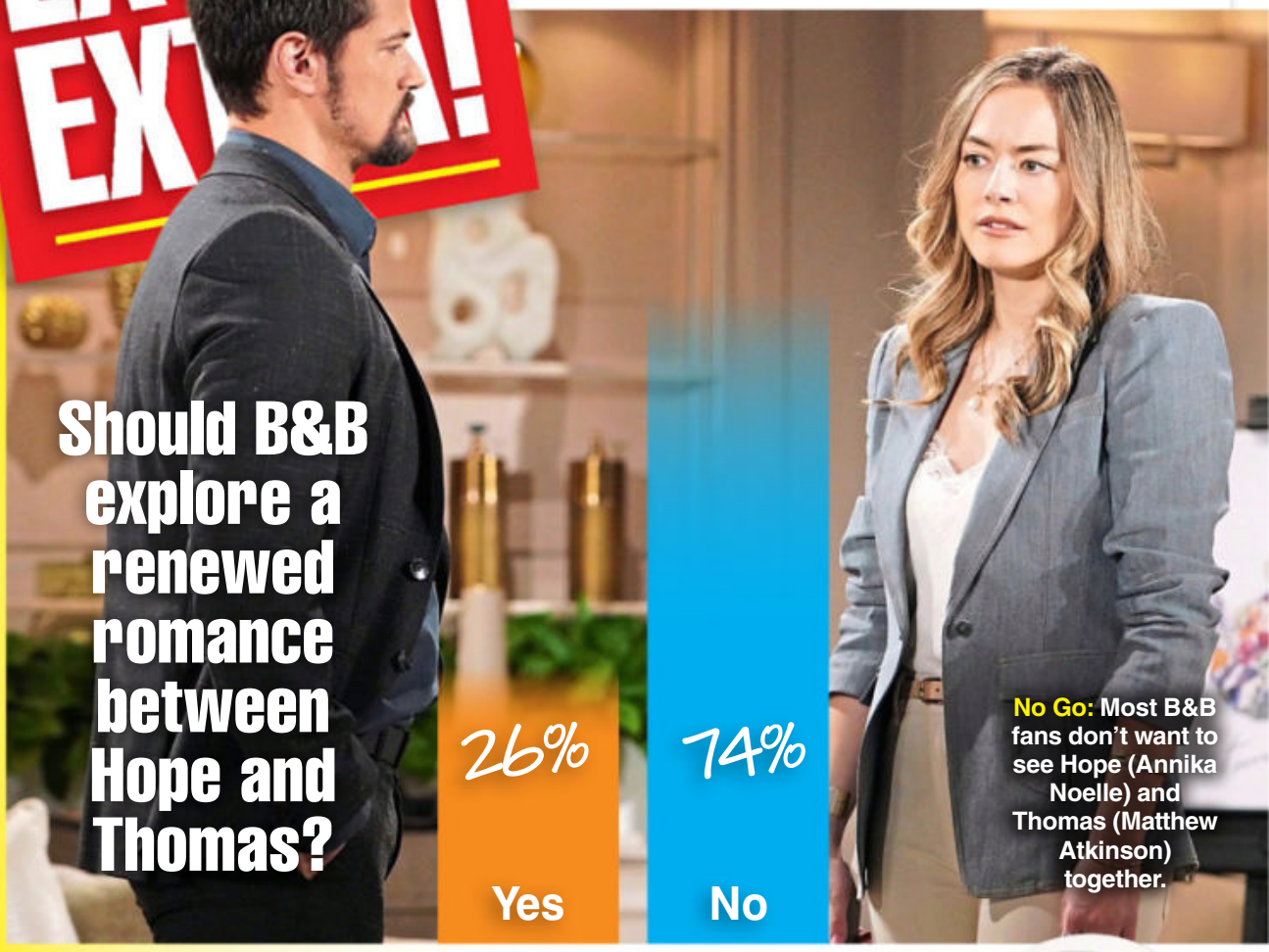
Molly Burnett (ex-Melanie, DAYS) posed with LAW AND ORDER: SVU co-star Christopher Meloni.

TWITTER/BURNETT

EXTRA! EXTRA!

snap POLL

Readers of soapoperadigest.com weigh in.



No Go: Most B&B fans don't want to see Hope (Annika Noelle) and Thomas (Matthew Atkinson) together.

HOWARD WISE/JPI

trend temperature

	Abbott Manse Denizens (Y&R)	Return To FC (B&B)	Vanquished GH Villain
HOT	Tucker	R.J.	Victor
WARM	Diane	Ridge	Ryan
COLD	Summer	Thomas	Peter

STAR SHOTS OF THE WEEK

INSTAGRAM/KONEFAL

Victoria Konefal (Ciara, DAYS) enjoyed snacks at Coachella.

INSTAGRAM/GRAHN

Nancy Lee Grahn (Alexis, GH) was gifted with a stunning bouquet of roses.

INSTAGRAM/ORDWAY

"First time at the Bluebird was a dream," cheered Y&R's Melissa Ordway (Abby, second from r.) with (from l.), Scott Reeves (ex-Steve, GH et al), Justin Ordway (ex-Chance, Y&R et al) and Reeves's daughter, Emily, who performed together.

INSTAGRAM/JONES

Ashley Jones (Bridget, B&B) had a hold on Matilda, Tom Pelphrey's (ex-Jonathan, GUIDING LIGHT et al) baby with Jones's bestie, Kaley Cuoco.

INSTAGRAM/FATH

"I have a bit in common with this legend," noted Farah Fath (ex-Mimi, DAYS et al, r.) of Jennifer Tilly. "Acting, poker, and Phil's. #HighStakesPoker episode with @jennifertilly coming soon."

SNEAK PREVIEW!

Record This

your handy guide to must-see episodes

PHOTOS: HOWARD WISE/JPI

Bold And Beautiful

Truth And Consequences

On **Monday, May 15**, Steffy holds back an important truth from Liam.... On **Tuesday, May 16**, Finn learns what is really bothering Steffy, while Liam sets a romantic welcome home dinner for Hope (both l.).... On **Thursday, May 18**, Steffy and R.J. get real about Ridge, Brooke and Taylor.

Days Of Our Lives

Comfort Zone

XJ JOHNSON/JPI

On **Monday, May 15**, Stephanie tries to comfort Alex, who's just been fired, and Shawn is consumed with guilt over shooting Bo.... Kristen presses Megan (both r.) about the plan to gain their freedom on **Tuesday, May 16**.... On **Wednesday, May 17**, Nicole discusses her pregnancy with Anna.... On **Thursday, May 18**, Sloan discovers Nicole's secret, and Paulina and Abe find themselves in grave danger.... Jada and Rafe question Sloan about Colin, and Stefan asks Gabi to marry him on **Friday, May 19**.

General Hospital

Pitch Count

Scott pitches a new plan; Sonny is taken by surprise; and Brook Lynn (r.) reports for duty on **Monday, May 15**.... On **Tuesday, May 16**, Nina arrives at Carly's; Robert seeks romantic advice; and Sasha faces her fear.... Portia seeks out Ava on **Wednesday, May 17**, while Alexis makes an offer, and Esme ponders her options.... On **Thursday, May 18**, Jordan offers congratulations; Sam is thrown; and Holly makes a big decision.

ERIC MCCANDLESS/ABC

Young And Restless

Full Plate

On **Monday, May 15**, Elena (r.) discusses the state of affairs with Nate, and Sally ponders an important decision.... Victor pushes Jack's buttons on **Tuesday, May 16**, while Summer puts on a brave front, and Chelsea leans on Billy.... On **Wednesday, May 17**, Lauren takes matters into her own hands, and Ashley lashes out at Diane.... Sharon experiences déjà vu on **Thursday, May 18**.... On **Friday, May 19**, Victor keeps Nick in line; Sharon receives a mysterious gift; and Tucker tries to make amends with Abby.

TV TIME

On **Monday, May 15**, on the season finale of ALL AMERICAN, changes are on the horizon for the gang, with many lessons learned from their enormous loss.... On **Wednesday, May 17**, on RIVERDALE, in order to keep Riverdale High's basketball legacy alive, Frank and Archie recruit a new player to the team, a quiet farm boy named Reggie Mantle; Tabitha's return to school inspires Toni to start a literary society for the town's Black students; Alice forces Betty to join the River Vixens; and Kevin starts a new job at the Babylonium.... On **Thursday, May 18**, it's the season finale of STATION 19, and when the crew attends the Firefighters Ball, disaster strikes and they jump into action. On a special two-hour season finale of GREY'S ANATOMY, Simone's wedding day arrives; Jo and Link's relationship hits a turning point; the attending surgeons fly to Boston, forcing a reunion between Nick and Meredith; and Bailey gets a big surprise…. On **Friday, May 19**, CARROT CAKE MURDER: A HANNAH SWENSEN MYSTERY, starring Alison Sweeney (ex-Sami, DAYS, above) and Cameron Mathison (Drew, GH), premieres on Hallmark Movies & Mysteries. See page 34 for more. Catch the series finale of S.W.A.T., starring Shemar Moore (ex-Malcolm, Y&R, r.).

BETTINA STRAUSS/HALLMARK; BILL INOSHITA/CBS/SONY PICTURES TELEVISION

Please Note: These are the scheduled air dates, released to us by the networks and TV production companies at press time. Due to last-minute pre-emptions, actual air dates may vary.

thumbs up! and down!

Best Of Show Or Worse For Wear? Digest Decides.

thumbs up!

YOUNG AND RESTLESS

Clash Offer

While we're sad that Traci has headed back to New York, the troubled dynamics among the Abbott siblings is going strong in storyline courtesy of Ashley and Jack. This brother/sister duo has a decades-long history of duking it out *and* having each other's backs, and both aspects are playing into their current friction. Ashley has made no secret of her disdain for Diane (which also stretches back years), and the nasty barbs are flying fast and furious during their clashes. As if things aren't tense enough on the home front, Ash decided to invite Tucker to move into the Abbott manse, which will doubtless prove to be a lightning rod for juicy domestic drama. What makes the Ash/Jack blowups so delicious is that the sibs are well-matched in wit and intelligence, while their portrayers, Eileen Davidson and Peter Bergman, are both captivating actors whose committed work illuminates what's driving their characters' behavior (Ashley wants to protect her brother; Jack wants to save the woman he loves). They're bound to make up eventually — but until then, we'll be reveling in the fireworks.

Y&R's Jack (Peter Bergman) and Ashley (Eileen Davidson)

thumbs down!

BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL

Stuck On You

Hope's current infatuation with Thomas is a baffling storyline turn that came out of left field. She has known Thomas since they were kids and over the years, she never showed any genuine signs of romantic interest in him; their short-lived stab at dating years ago (masterminded by Steffy to keep Hope away from Liam) stoked Thomas's ardor for Hope, but she did not reciprocate, and

Applause, Applause

Great work by Y&R's Tracey E. Bregman as Lauren poured out her grief over Phyllis to Jack.... We appreciated the B&B scene where Wyatt took Liam to task for being late to a business meeting because he was talking to Steffy — again — about Thomas and Hope.... As Victor's captive, Liesl, Kathleen Gati might be the most entertaining hostage in GH history! ... Kudos to whoever at DAYS put together the Bo/Hope flashback montage that captured their greatest hits over the past 40 years. It was the perfect reminder of why this duo is still so beloved.

Picky Picky

If Y&R's presumed-dead Phyllis wanted to remain incognito, why did she meet Summer in the public park? ... DAYS's Hope gushed to Bo, "Now you're a grandfather," and voiced her excitement over him meeting Ciara's young son. But Bo was already a grandfather — since 2005 — when Shawn's daughter, Claire, was born! ... The absence of Taggert — or any mention of Taggert — was quite glaring in the wake of his daughter, Trina's, disappearance on GH.

their history only got messier from there, as Thomas developed a sick obsession with Hope and manipulated her in various ways, even weaponizing his son (who she adopted) in a twisted bid to create a family with her. Now Hope and Thomas are once again working side by side and she is suddenly fantasizing about the man who put her through hell. To say it feels forced would be an understatement, and her hand-wringing over whether she may somehow be "like her mother" when it comes to men doesn't explain her sudden bout of Thomas-centric lust. It's hard to imagine B&B's intentions here, because given how things have played out over the past decade-plus, the idea that genuine, healthy feelings could, would or should exist on either side is a very tough sell, leaving this duo with very little rooting interest.

HOWARD WISE/JPI

thumbs up!

DAYS OF OUR LIVES

Anna Divine

We love any scene that includes Leann Hunley as the delightful Anna DiMera and are thrilled that she is being used more regularly. For a while, Anna seemed only to appear as an appendage to Tony, and while Hunley always delivers as his amusing and lighthearted better half, she is capable of so much more than one-liners. We were reminded of that a while back, when Johnny turned to Anna for assistance in uncovering one of EJ's schemes and she eagerly stepped up to help him. Now Anna has forged a new connection with Nicole, and their burgeoning friendship is a treat. Their respective relationships with a DiMera brother (Tony for Anna, EJ for Nicole) has given them common ground. Anna, who can surely see a lot of herself in Nicole, has proven to be a solid confidante and advice-giver, and their bond is refreshing given how all the DiMera men seem consumed with backstabbing each other. The show was wise to expand Anna's circle and give Hunley more opportunities to shine. □

Performer Of **The Week**

Cynthia Watros

(NINA, GH)

When Nina and Carly went another round in their war over Willow, the emotional precision with which Nina's portrayer, Cynthia Watros, navigated the scenes was fascinating to watch.

Nina was agitated and on edge when she charged into Ava's home and found Carly there instead, and her tone was clipped when Carly asked if something was wrong, snapping, "Yeah, my daughter's dying." As Nina apologized for her flash of temper, Watros dialed down the animosity but maintained Nina's wariness, born of a certainty that Carly was incapable of keeping the conversation civil. Indeed, the tension soon escalated again when talk turned to Willow's wedding. It was news to Carly that Sonny had made the invite list, and Nina pounced on the chance to make a sarcastic dig at the outsize influence her rival typically exerts on her son.

Carly took the bait, ticking off the myriad ways Nina had earned Willow's mistrust. Watros played Nina as determined not to give Carly a win by appearing visibly wounded, but she let her eyes cloud with pain as the diatribe unfolded, and when she spoke again, her voice was husky with the emotions she'd been bottling. "I've made mistakes," she allowed. But with a growing outrage, her words coming out in a venomous snarl, she maintained that it was Carly's fault that she was running out of time to fix things with her dying daughter. Carly had a lot to say in response, none of it kind, and Nina chose her next words carefully, raw and sorrow-filled as she spoke of the rapidly dwindling opportunities she had to rebuild her relationship with Willow: "That's *you*, Carly."

The narrative impetus for these scenes was to set up Nina's retaliation: siccing the SEC on Carly. Watros clearly understood this, but her performance made it impossible to see Nina as motivated solely by spite. She infused Nina with humanity, laying bare the volatile mix of blind rage and Technicolor anguish that drove Nina to extremes.

RICKY MIDDLESWORTH/ABC

editor's note

JIM WARREN

Dear Readers,

Camila Banus has announced her exit as DAYS's Gabi, a role she first began playing in 2010. It's unfortunate timing for the fans, as Stefan and Gabi's 2.0 romance is taking flight, but on the bright side, because of the soap's shooting schedule, we'll see "Stabi's" relationship blossom for at least six more months or so. On page 30, Camila and co-star Brandon Barash (Stefan) talk about the many iterations of their on-screen pairing and what the future holds now that she's leaving. Speaking of DAYS, I'm a big Bravo and MILLION DOLLAR LISTING fan, so I was very excited to hear that MDL: LOS ANGELES star Josh Flagg would be playing Yuri on the soap. I spoke to him about his guest spot; find that on page 12.

Charles Shaughnessy has checked out of GH as Victor, a role he relished playing. On page 42, he opens up to Mara Levinsky about his last hurrah in Port Charles and whether or not he thinks Victor will rise from the proverbial ashes.

Our special section on page 48 is a new one, and it is definitely one of my favorites to date. Four stars shared their acting secrets — how they cry on cue, what they do when a co-star forgets a line and more — and the responses were very informative. Check it out. In keeping with the behind-the-scenes theme, in our Roundup on page 36, your faves reveal what backstage job they'd like to do for a day.

Stephanie Sloane

Stephanie Sloane,
VP, Editorial Director

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By Carolyn Hinsey

It's Only My Opinion

Daytime's most outspoken columnist!

Follow Carolyn on Twitter @carolynhinsey

■ Good returning characters need a proper buildup, as opposed to the sudden "Oh, hi" approach.

■ B&B chose the latter with Ridge and Brooke's son, Ridge, Jr., who hadn't been heard from in over five years until one day...

Brooke: "When is the last time you talked to your brother?"

Hope: "The other day. We text all the time. We video chat. I know you talk to him, too."

She does? It didn't make sense that the kid would appear on screen on the same day he got his first mention when clearly a casting call had been out to recast the pivotal role for a while.

RJ: "Hey, Dad."

Ridge: "Ridge, Junior! Welcome home."

Awkwardness ensued as Ridge launched into Brooke's "sadness below the surface" about missing R.J. so much (which we also never saw) and there were way too many "Talk to your half brother" and "Hey, little brother!" convos for my taste.

Taylor: "He's Ridge's son, your brother."

Thomas: "Dad and Brooke created him together."

We get it. Instead of portraying R.J. as a flighty teenager traveling the world, it would have made more sense for B&B to tie his return to Sheila's incarceration — saying he didn't feel safe coming home until now — because the Forrester fear of Sheila is legitimate. Now, *there's* a character who always gets a proper entrance (back from the dead, sporting a disguise, turning up in someone's bed, you name it).

Good returning characters need a proper buildup.

Taylor: "Then there's you: Deplorable. Shooting Steffy and Finn to save yourself. Gunning your own son down in an alley."

Sheila: "That was an accident."

Taylor: "Because you meant to kill my daughter."

Bill: "You'll die in here and no one is going to care."

Wanna bet?

■ GH's Holly is another one kept relevant even when she isn't on the show. After months of references to her son, Ethan, being held captive, he burst onto the scene in chains at a Venezuelan auction where he was being bid on by Holly, Felicia and ... his former stepmother, Tracy Quartermaine.

Felicia: "I can't get over you showing up at a black market auction."

Tracy: "I couldn't let Luke's son get executed."

Tracy's return made perfect sense (she's been globetrotting), as did her coming back to P.C. with the gang on their private jet. GH stayed true to her curmudgeonly nature, right down to her eye mask on the plane so no one would talk to her.

Felicia: "You need your

family around you now."

Tracy: "Have you *met* my family?"

Next up: Her family!

Tracy *(storming into the Q mansion)*: "What on earth was Monica thinking planting daffodils all the way up the drive? It looks like the Easter bunny threw up."

The Qs exchanged nervous looks as Tracy took aim at Carly ("What is *she* doing here?") while making herself at home before Michael and Willow's wedding. After 45 years, Tracy needs no reintroduction, so they wisely plopped her right into the action, calling Carly "A.J.'s worst mistake", Obrecht "that frau from hell", and Drew "another one of Alan's illegitimate offspring".

For those of us who watched Tracy withhold Edward's heart medication in 1980 it was like a warm hug.

■ DAYS "kills" way too many characters who then come back to life, but give them credit for Hope's reunion with the prodigal Bo, which was a full six weeks in the making. The big moment had tears and ocean breezes and fantasies and so many flashbacks it was like a gauzy jaunt to the 1990s. Too bad the brainwashed mess pulled a gun on her.

Hope: "No, dammit! You're Bo Brady. The best man I know. You're the love of my life. Your heart is the truest part of you and it knows you belong with me, your Fancy Face."

Bo: "Fancy Face!"

Bang. Shot by his son at the very moment his memory was returning because Shawn spied the gun Bo was holding and he wanted to protect Hope.

Ah, soaps.

■ A key ingredient to a good soapy return is making us want to *watch* the newbie. Y&R didn't do that with Tucker, having him screw over his son, Devon, and relentlessly court his ex-wife Ashley (after cheating on her their first go-round) while having sex with Audra on the side.

Ashley *(re: Devon)*: "It meant a lot to me that you were going to be redeemed."

Tucker: "I don't need to be redeemed by you."

Ashley *(leaving)*: "You're right."

Tucker: "This is what you do to me."

Ashley: "What, make you say mean, stupid things?"

He's a classic abuser: See what you made me do to you?

Contrast Tucker's fizzle with Diane's sizzle, brought in with the perfect tease of that real estate/Allie ruse and fortified by her ability to push every one of Phyllis's buttons until Phyllis lost it. Yes, Jack's a sucker for falling for Diane again but she sure did shake up the Abbott house.

Rise Up: Y&R has mined a lot of riveting story from Diane's (Susan Walters) comeback.

HOWARD WISE/JPI

Jack: "Diane is coming back here."

Ashley: "This is my home, too. Why don't you find yourself a nice little house next to whatever prison Diane is sent to once she's convicted? Diane is going to cost you everything that ever meant anything to you."

Playing the villainous Diane with Michael is smart because we love him.

Diane *(in prison)*: "You look like hell."

Michael: "I'm too much of a gentleman to return the compliment."

It strains credulity that it didn't occur to Diane that Phyllis faked her death when Diane did it for over a decade, but the toxicity is riveting — especially since we knew Phyllis was alive. As returns go, appearing to your daughter as she mourns your death is up there. That's the one situation where the less-is-more approach can actually work: "Oh, hi!"

■ Hey. It's only my opinion. □

THIRD TIME'S A *charm*

DAYS's Brandon Barash And Camila Banus Talk About The Past, Present And Future Of Their On-Screen Pairings.

By Devin Owens

(Stefan DiMera and Gabi Hernandez)

Soap Opera Digest: Brandon, you came in as a quick recast for Tyler Christopher. Did you two have any interaction before you jumped into the story?

Brandon Barash: Zero. I think we met on my first day when we filmed our first scene. Everything was on the spot, including this crazy chemistry that people are talking about.

Digest: Did you hit it off right away?

Barash: I think we get along well. We respect one another. We respect each other's process and that's a big part of it, too, when there's a mutual respect between actors.

Camila Banus: I think we're both professional and keep it funny, too. We're always joking around, which is nice and good.

Digest: Camila, what did you think when you heard your characters would be paired up?

Banus: It was such a new pairing for me because I had come from a different group of actors that I was always working with, the Will, Sonny and Chad characters. And it was a big difference for me because they were introducing this new DiMera family

member that I hadn't heard of. But it was just interesting to include this new DiMera character that had so much power, and for Gabi to be involved with him or have the potential involvement, was exciting.

Digest: Do you remember how you approached the story? Did you talk about how you would play the scenes?

Barash: No, that's not really how I like to work. I don't want to speak for Camila, so I guess I'll let her add on to it, but it doesn't seem that she rolls that way.

Banus: That is something we have in common.

Barash: I like to show up and have it be like a good tennis match. You don't know how the ball is coming your way, you just have to take each ball for what it is. And that's what I love so much about what we do, especially in the daytime medium. There's not time for planning.

Banus: I was just going to say that we don't have the time and we have so much material to go through day by day that it would be so hard. We'd have to come home and then start working on that material and be taken away from our families yet again to discuss what we would be doing for the next day when we have a very short turnaround. So it would be much harder.

Barash: That's part of the fun, too — surprising your partner. Camila definitely knows that I like doing that. I will hold something back until we actually do the take as opposed to the rehearsal, and I'll do something completely new and different. Some actors like when you do that and some actors don't. So, luckily, Camila just kinda rolls with it.

Banus: Oh, yeah, 100 percent. I don't mind at all. We go through so much material and I think it's what keeps it light and keeps it easy.

Digest: Well, the audience response to your pairing was and is very positive. Were you very pleased about that? Were you surprised?

Barash: I kind of go into things with as few expectations as possible, so of course, it's always a nice surprise when a pairing takes off. And certainly when you're a recast, it's very nice to know that your character and your portrayal is being well received.

Banus: I mean, for me, it was great. This is gonna be sad to hear, but it doesn't matter at the end of the day what happens, because whatever is written on the page is what we have to do. But it was really nice that we had such great feedback from the fans

HOWARD WISE/PEACOCK; CHRIS HASTON/NBC

with our pairing.

Digest: Did you feel like you were clicking and getting into a rhythm?

Banus: I think with every person that you get paired with, you have some sort of rhythm because of the timing of how we work. We work so fast. It's just impossible to not get into that tennis match kind of thing. And we have gotten quite a huge word load. We've gotten a lot of scenes where it's just been, like, nonstop for us, and you have to get into that natural rhythm or else we're just going to implode.

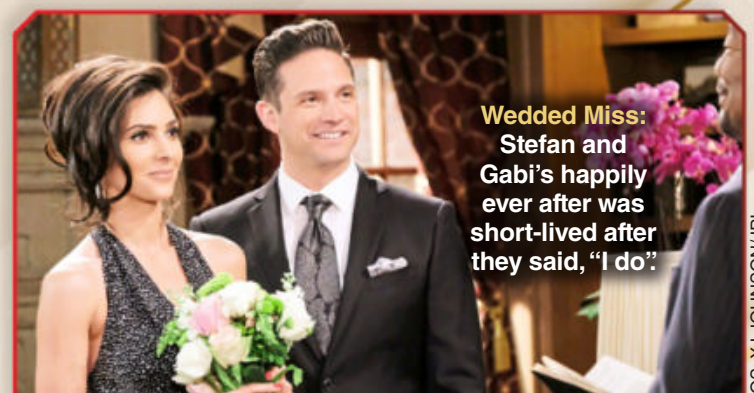
Barash: You can certainly feel when you're hitting it off with an actor and when you're not. And, yes, I felt it immediately again. It really goes back to the other actor being present. You work in this business long enough, you come across people who work differently. And one of my biggest pet peeves — and, this is not me speaking about anybody in particular — is working with somebody who has a moment planned regardless of what you're going to give them. The best kind of partner you can have is someone who's present and just receives what you're giving them. And from the get-go, Camila did that, and when you have a partner who's willing to go there with you, you feel instantly that it works.

Banus: You can play.

Digest: Brandon, when you were brought on, the initial plan was to kill Stefan, which they did. Were you both hoping they would change the story since the "Stabi" dynamic was working so well?

Barash: I was certainly enjoying the work, I was enjoying the character, I was enjoying the storylines, and of course, whenever a job ends, we're all definitely bummed. But I embrace the notion that nothing is permanent except impermanence itself, and when it ended I thought, "Great, it's an opportunity for something else." And who knew that that opportunity would come a few months later as Stefan's twin brother, Jake. Only in daytime.

Banus: In this medium, most of the time, contract stuff is not really discussed with anybody else. I didn't know his contract was ending. I was just like, "Wait, they're killing this man when everything is going great? The fans love it. I don't understand what's happening." So for me, it came out of left field. But then when they were bringing him back as Jake, it was another punch to the face. I was like, "Wait, *what*? Now they're bringing him back as another person and it's his brother?" So it was just a little weird but again, only in daytime, nothing surprises us. Anything can happen. We rise from the ashes. And it turned out to be great, and I think Gabi and Jake had as much chemistry as Gabi and Stefan. So it turned out to be wonderful.



Wedded Miss: Stefan and Gabi's happily ever after was short-lived after they said, "I do."

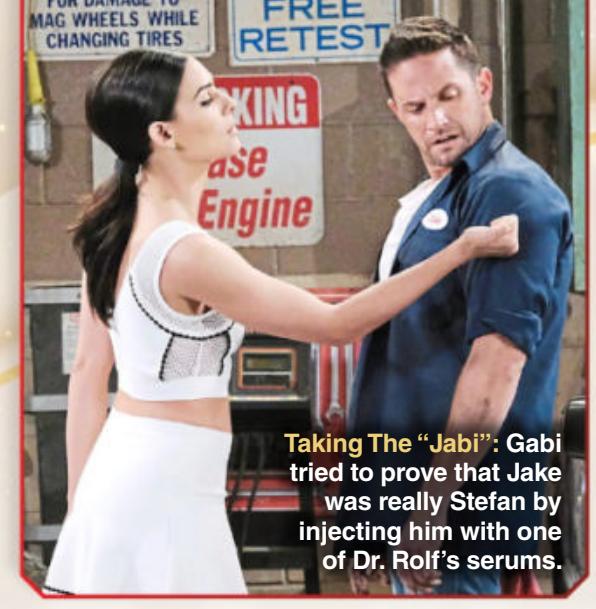
PHOTOS: XJ JOHNSON/JPI

Feels Like The First Time: The actors felt no pressure when creating "Stabi" 2.0.

Digest: What did you like about "Jabi"?

Banus: What I liked about "Jabi" is that it brought Gabi back down to her realness. She was a little less pretentious, a little more original Gabi. A little more grown-up Gabi. And I think that excited her, and the fact that this was the face of the person that she was still in love with.

Barash: It was less evil, right? I mean, Stefan and Gabi are conspiring constantly to take over DiMera and possibly the world.



Taking The "Jabi": Gabi tried to prove that Jake was really Stefan by injecting him with one of Dr. Rolf's serums.

"Jabi" was a little sweeter. It felt a little more grounded, if that makes sense.

Digest: And then in a surprise twist, Jake died. What was your reaction when you found that out?

Barash: Again, not surprised because in the world of daytime, anything can happen. But I was also partially relieved because I felt as if Jake had kind of run his course as far as the storylines that were being written, and I think that the writers and producers felt that, as well. I took it as a compliment that they weren't like, "All right, dude, see ya." They were like, "Okay, we like you enough to bring you back again." So I guess it means I'm doing something right.

Banus: I was like, "Oh, my God, this is what we're doing?" But, again, you roll with the punches, you work with what you're given, and you make it work and you make it as believable as possible. And it was just a moment of, "Okay, we'll pick it up right where we left off."

Digest: Did you feel any pressure to play out "Stabi" 2.0?

Banus: Oh, not me. I think the fans responded well to what we did in the past, and again, we're picking up right where we left off for Gabi and Stefan. It's like he never died. We're back to world domination, so for me, that's why I think the fans responded well.

Digest: What has been your favorite scene together as "Stabi"?

Barash: Well, I will go back to the time that Camila and I made ketchup on the Hernandez kitchen table inadvertently. It was in the middle of a scene and I think they wanted me to pick her up and put her on the table. Unbeknownst to me, I don't know if Camila saw it, but there were a bunch of tomatoes on the table and we smooshed them. So that was interesting.

Banus: I like that one, but I will say there was a very recent moment, actually, and I don't know if the best word is fun, but it was just funny for me because I didn't stop laughing the entire time. We had a scene where Stefan had to give Gabi a foot massage on camera. I couldn't even believe that I could not contain my laughter. I couldn't contain somebody touching me on camera in front of all these people. I got so weird, so shy. I didn't even know who I was. It was just the funniest, strangest, most bizarre thing that's ever happened to me on camera.

Digest: Camila, you announced that you're leaving the show. How do you feel to know that you'll be wrapping up this chapter of the "Stabi" storyline?

Banus: It's bittersweet for me. I think I'm at a time in my life where personally, it's a good time for me to step away and just take a reset. It's going to be hard for me to let go of Gabi in that sense. But I think with soaps and the way that we work, it's never always a for-sure good-bye. So, you never know what the cards hold for Gabi and Stefan, and I think this will add another dynamic to "Stabi" and to Stefan. I think this is going to be a really interesting time for how *he* deals now with her being gone. So it's gonna be exciting.

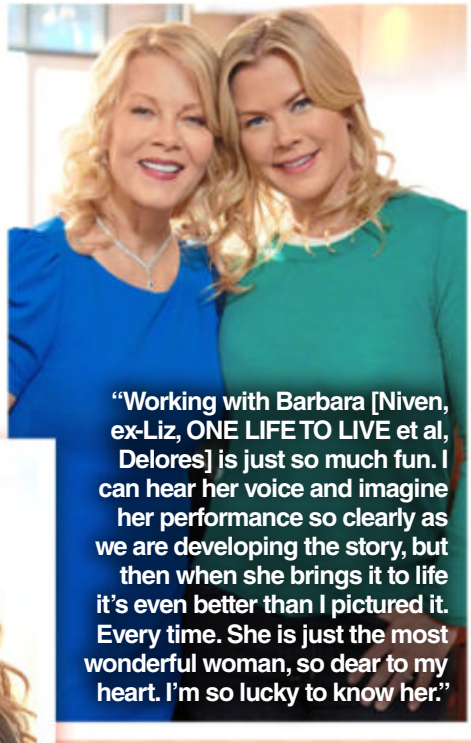
Barash: Absolutely. I couldn't agree more with what Camila said. It is bittersweet. I am, of course, bummed out that I'm losing such a great scene partner, but I'm so excited for Camila and whatever this next phase of her life brings. It's really a beautiful thing when you see an actor say, "You know what, this is what I want," and they go out and they do it. As far as Stefan goes, absolutely. It's funny that whenever I would go through a breakup in real life, in my 20s and 30s, there's that initial moment of, "S**t. This really sucks." And then that for me, at least, was always followed up with, "I'm really excited to go into the unknown and see what lies ahead for me on the other side of this," and the same goes for Stefan. I'm excited to see how he navigates the world without his partner in crime. □

Sweet TALK

Alison Sweeney (ex-Sami, DAYS) previews what to expect in her new film with Cameron Mathison (Drew, GH), CARROT CAKE MURDER: A HANNAH SWENSEN MYSTERY, premiering Friday, May 19, on Hallmark Movies & Mysteries.

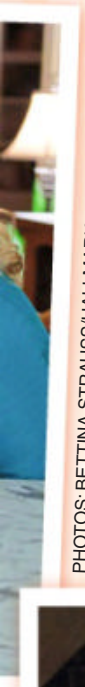
"Hannah and Mike are engaged, and Moishe [the cat] is none too pleased about it. These were such cute moments from the novel that I wanted to make sure the fans saw in the movie."

"Norman [Gabriel Hogan, l.] is planning a surprise party for his mom at the beginning of CARROT CAKE MURDER. And, well, things don't go quite as planned." Also pictured: Danny Wattley as Eugene.



"Working with Barbara [Niven, ex-Liz, ONE LIFE TO LIVE et al, Delores] is just so much fun. I can hear her voice and imagine her performance so clearly as we are developing the story, but then when she brings it to life it's even better than I pictured it. Every time. She is just the most wonderful woman, so dear to my heart. I'm so lucky to know her."

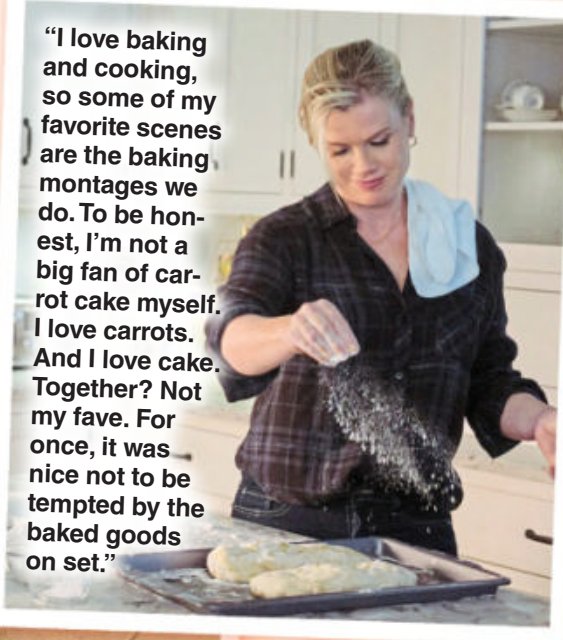
"Eugene has such an interesting story. We loved the fact that he's been in town for years. He's such an important part of the community so it's so hard for Hannah to grapple with him becoming a suspect."



PHOTOS: BETTINA STRAUSS/HALLMARK

"We did take some romantic license to include Mike in the baking montage — a definite departure for Hannah. But we thought it was a fun way to catch the audience up on where they are in their relationship at the beginning of the movie."

"In the latest HANNAH, we see that Norman has a new love interest [Julia Benson, Diana]. I love adding this element to the story for Norman and it complicates all the relationships. But of course, the best is Delores's reaction to her. We added a whole extra beat because Barbara was so funny in this moment."



"I love baking and cooking, so some of my favorite scenes are the baking montages we do. To be honest, I'm not a big fan of carrot cake myself. I love carrots. And I love cake. Together? Not my fave. For once, it was nice not to be tempted by the baked goods on set."

"Cameron is so great as Mike. I love working with him and he's a perfect counterbalance to Hannah. This set was tricky to work in. I think most Sami/DAYS fans know I'm pretty klutzy in real life, so this was a minefield for me."

Q roundup

What behind-the-scenes job

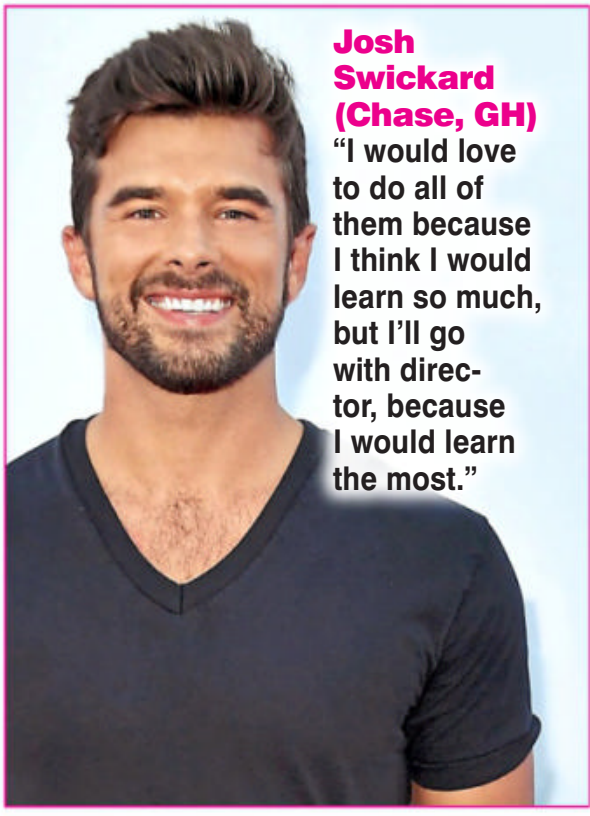
STEVEN BERGMAN

Nicholas Chavez (Spencer, GH)
"I would love to direct an episode. That would be so fun!"

TODD WILLIAMSON/PEACOCK

Greg Rikaart (Leo, DAYS)
"I would like to be a set designer. I appreciate architecture and I think it would be fun to play in that arena."

Kimberlin Brown (Sheila, B&B)
"I want to be [Supervising Producer] Ed Scott. I would love to sit in the booth and help actors give their best performances. I see things finished before they're even done, so if I had the kind of time to dedicate to reading everybody's scenes and what's going on, I think it would be so fun and interesting."



JILL JOHNSON/JPI; ROB LATOUR/SHUTTERSTOCK

Josh Swickard (Chase, GH)
"I would love to do all of them because I think I would learn so much, but I'll go with director, because I would learn the most."

would you like to fill in for a day?

Jennifer Gareis (Donna, B&B)
"Directing. I've only directed some of my friends when they're putting their audition tapes together. I'll give them directions, like, 'Talk as if you're talking to your best friend.' I'm not sure if I really know what I'm doing but I think it would really be fun to try for a day."

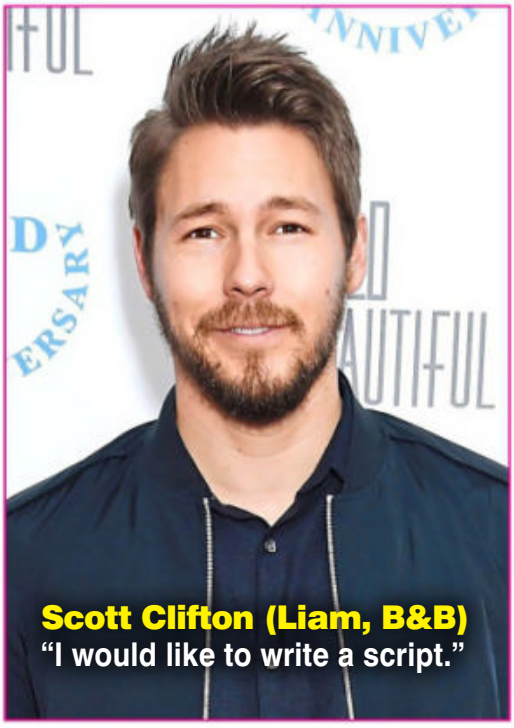
MICHAEL MATTES/SHUTTERSTOCK

HOWARD WISE/JPI

Joshua Morrow (Nick, Y&R)
"I'm gonna say Josh Griffith's job [executive producer/head writer]. I'm very comfortable in leadership roles and having that sort of power and responsibility is not something I'm afraid of."

Eric Martsolf (Brady, DAYS)
"I'd like to be a director. I don't know if I'd love to have the responsibility of it right now, because we move at the speed of a Concorde jet. But I've never shied away from a task. If it scares me, I want to do it. I would want to take that on because it would be hard, and I never shy away from a challenge."

AFF-USA/SHUTTERSTOCK



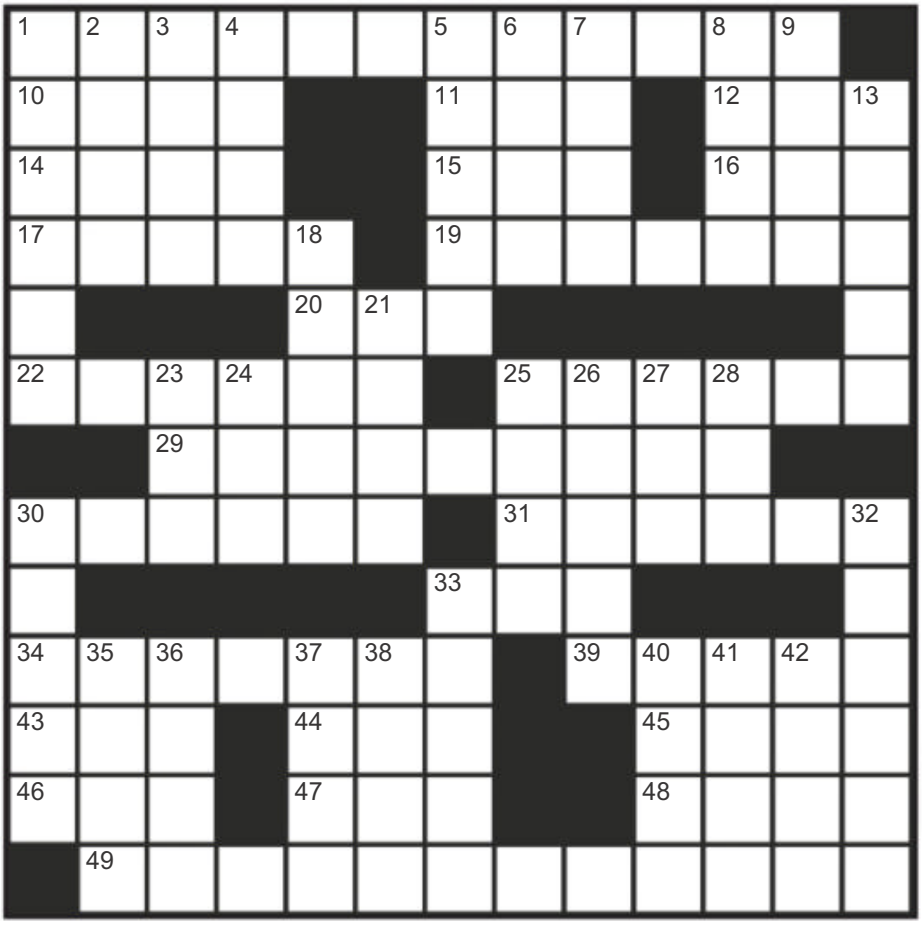
Scott Clifton (Liam, B&B)
"I would like to write a script."

TAMMIE/JPI

crossword

BY DONNA HOKE

THERE AND BACK



ACROSS

1. *DAUGHTER OF Y&R'S PHYLLIS AND NICK (two words)*
10. Principal
11. Anger
12. Shopping need
14. Baby blues, e.g.
15. Metric "miles"; abbr.
16. DAYS role for Kassie DePaiva
17. "The stage __ __ ..." (two words)
19. GH's MacMullen (Willow)
20. O-U preceders
22. *Murder on the Orient Express* author Christie
25. Y&R's Jason (ex-Arturo)
29. *WHAT ALL THE THEMED FOLKS HAVE BEEN PART OF*
30. *ABBOTT SISTER (Y&R)*
31. *MICHAEL'S WIFE (Y&R)*
33. The 21st, e.g.; abbr.
34. *LOS ___, WHERE HALF OF 29 ACROSS TOOK PLACE*
39. Pinball flubs
43. Nickname for Y&R's Thomas Scott (Nikki)
44. AOL, e.g.
45. Gossip
46. Take a look
47. Code-cracking organization; abbr.
48. *FORRESTER PATRIARCH (B&B)*
49. *CHARACTER ON B&B WHO ALSO APPEARED ON Y&R (two words)*

DOWN

1. *B&B'S VILLAINOUS CARTER*
2. One-eighties
3. Actresses Clarke and West
4. Goods; abbr.
5. *ARGUABLY, VICTOR'S Y&R's SOUL MATE*
6. Humorist Bombeck
7. GH's Maura (Ava)
8. Biblical shepherd
9. A shade of blue
13. ___ *CITY, HALF OF 29 ACROSS*
18. California border lake
21. "No problem!"
23. "Alas!" in Austria
24. "... Baby One More Time" was the last video played on this MTV show
25. Bradley ___ (ex-Warren, GH et al)
26. B&B family name
27. Modern, in German
28. "To ___ is human ..."
30. *DAYS*'s Lucas (Tripp)
32. "__-__ *pas*?" (French)
33. BOOKNOTES channel
35. Call for
36. Lea Michele's singing series
37. Early Tyler on ALL MY

Answers can be found in the next issue.

sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. You can't change the digits already provided in the grid; you have to work around them.

9		3				7		
	4	7	1	8			6	
				3	2	8		
	1				6		7	3
3	6		8				9	
		4	2	6				
	3			5	4	1	2	
		9				6		4

CHILDREN
38. Canadian gas brand
40. "I had no ___!"
41. Carrier from Montauk Point to New York City; abbr.
42. Voyage

ANSWERS FROM LAST ISSUE

S	N	A	P	P	E	R	■	K	A	Y	L	A
H	I	T	■	■	G	I	N	O	■	A	I	L
A	N	N	A	■	G	C	A	C	■	L	E	E
R	A	O	U	L	■	■	R	■	T	E	D	X
O	■	■	F	E	L	I	C	I	A	■	■	I
N	A	N	■	V	I	N	■	■	R	O	S	S
■	■	E	L	I	Z	A	B	E	T	H	■	■
S	O	D	A	■	■	L	A	R	■	M	E	G
H	■	■	P	H	Y	L	L	I	S	■	■	L
A	B	C	D	■	E	■	■	C	A	R	L	O
U	R	I	■	S	A	M	I	■	M	O	O	R
N	A	T	■	I	R	O	N	■	■	M	O	I
A	D	E	L	A	■	M	A	R	L	E	N	A

BEHIND the SCENES!

Scene & Heard

MOURNING GLORY

Y&R fans voiced their disbelief on social media that no one recognized Phyllis in disguise at her own funeral, but her portrayer, **Michelle Stafford**, is here to report that her character flying under the radar wasn't that farfetched. "It's so funny because so many people were like, 'Oh my God! *Nobody* recognized her?' " the actress iterates. "But honestly, I was on the set wearing that wig and those glasses for a good 45 minutes, and no one recognized me. Everyone just walked by and ignored me. And when I was walking to the set, **Josh** [**Morrow**, Nick] walked right past me, so I went, 'Hi', and he just went, 'Hi' and kept on walking! He didn't bat an eye and I was really stunned. I thought, 'Oh, wow, this guy didn't even know me.' And I think it's funny because there was just a barrage of comments that people couldn't believe that no one recognized Phyllis, but it's true because [my co-stars] didn't and I've been working with most of them for years. Also, I think that it's not such a stretch because you wouldn't expect Phyllis to be standing there alive while you're paying your respects at her funeral."

Y&R's Michelle became the invisible woman.

TWITTER/LEBLANC

MISSING THE ACTION

Abigail Klein (Stephanie, DAYS) made a very memorable blooper on set that she never wants to repeat. "I had missed a page of dialogue," she shares. "I hadn't printed it out, because I just didn't see it. I didn't think I had any lines in it. Worst nightmare. I didn't realize that I'd missed memorizing a couple of lines in a scene that was already in progress with other actors. I thought I was just entering in at the end. At rehearsal, I walked in all confident and didn't say anything. Then I heard over the intercom, 'And Stephanie says ...' I was like, 'Oh, my God.' I just quickly looked over the lines with our stage manager, managed to do my thing, and it was fine. Luckily, it was only a couple of lines. I cannot imagine accidentally doing that with dialogue that was any longer than that. It really makes me sweat just thinking about it."

DAYS's Abigail forgot to turn the page.

XJ JOHNSON/JPI

RIGHT ON, Q!

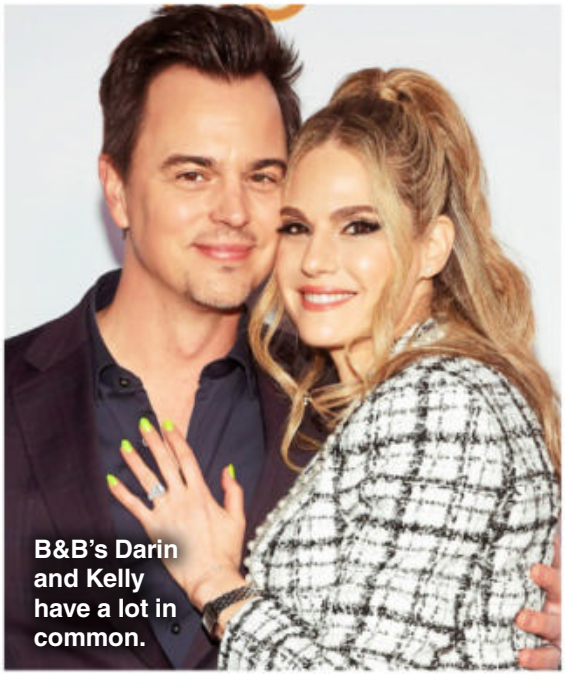
GH's Wally is glad to be keeping company with Jane.

RICKY MIDDLESWORTH/ABC; CHRISTOPHER WILLARD/ABC

Wally Kurth (Ned) is overjoyed to have **Jane Elliot** back in the GH mix as his on-screen mother, Tracy. "I love Jane, love having her back," he enthuses. "It's just great. I mean, it just feels like GENERAL HOSPITAL for me when she's around and I feel like we're already back into our rhythm. We had lunch the other day and got caught up on everything and one thing I didn't realize until that conversation is that we both love THE VOICE! I thought that was so funny, but every time I watch it, I'm always moved in some way and thrilled by the talent and how democratic the process is. She feels the same way and we talked about how much we enjoy it. But anyway, Jane and I have known each other for a long time and I have so much respect for her. I can't hide anything from her; she picks up on everything! She knows me really well and she loves me and she holds me accountable."

TWO OUT OF THREE AIN'T BAD

Darin Brooks (Wyatt, B&B) recalls that when he first met his future wife, **Kelly Kruger** (ex-Eva; ex-Mackenzie, Y&R), in 2011, they had much more in common than just instant compatibility. "We were sitting there chatting and something came up and she said something like, 'I have to talk to my brother **Adam**,' " he recalls. "And I was like, 'Oh, that's crazy. My brother's name is **Adam**.' She was like, 'Really? What's your mom's name?' I said, 'It's **Susan**,' and she said, 'My mother's name is **Susi**.' Then I said, 'Well, while mine is Susan, she goes by Susie, too.' We were like, 'This is crazy!' Then she was like, 'Okay, what is your dad's name?' I said, 'It's **Don**.' She said, 'Okay, mine is **Allan**.' But it's crazy that we had two out of three family members with the same name! So then we were like, 'Well, we've got to be friends or something now because this is just too darn crazy.' Our families don't get the chance to get together very often, since hers is in Toronto and mine is in Hawaii, but when we are all together, you can imagine it can get a little confusing at times," he chuckles.


B&B's Darin and Kelly have a lot in common.

FAYE SADOU/SHUTTERSTOCK

THE EVIL DEAD

Charles Shaughnessy Looks Back On His GH Run.

By Mara Levinsky

(ex-Victor Cassadine)

In September 2021, Charles Shaughnessy — best known to soap fans as heroic spy Shane Donovan on DAYS — assumed the role of diabolical Cassadine patriarch Victor, who just met his maker (again) after going on a killing and kidnapping spree.

Soap Opera Digest: Charles! How are you?

Charles Shaughnessy: I'm doing fine for someone who's been blown to smithereens [*laughs*]!

Digest: Happy to hear it. So, I get the sense that Victor's demise did not come as a surprise to you.

Shaughnessy: No, he sort of crossed a line. He had been a meddling, malevolent character and then suddenly he sort of started to become, you know, a serial killer on the loose, a psychopath — and at that point I went, "Oh, there's only one way this is gonna end and it's not gonna be pretty." The way he ended, I thought, was interesting. He kidnapped a few people and took them to Greenland and then suddenly the entire population of Port Charles shows up in Greenland, including Curtis, with whom I've had absolutely nothing to do, as well as the mayor, Laura, and various and sundry others. I figured, "Well, the only reason they would do that is that everyone has such a personal agenda with Victor, they're gonna do a sort of *Orient Express* ending and each one of them is going to decide that they all share the responsibility of killing this man." It would be like the death of Caesar — everyone puts the knife in him and goes, "This is for my sister, and this is for Luke and this is for so-and-so." Instead, he was sort of blown up off camera and then a body is recovered that is revealed to be a very dead-looking Victor. But [his death itself] is not on camera, and that always signals to me that things ain't quite what they seem. I mean, I'm definitely done [filming], he's definitely dead, I'm just not convinced that there isn't some further dealings afoot.

CRAIG SJODIN/ABC

Digest: Even though you saw it coming, were you sorry to see your time at GH come to an end?

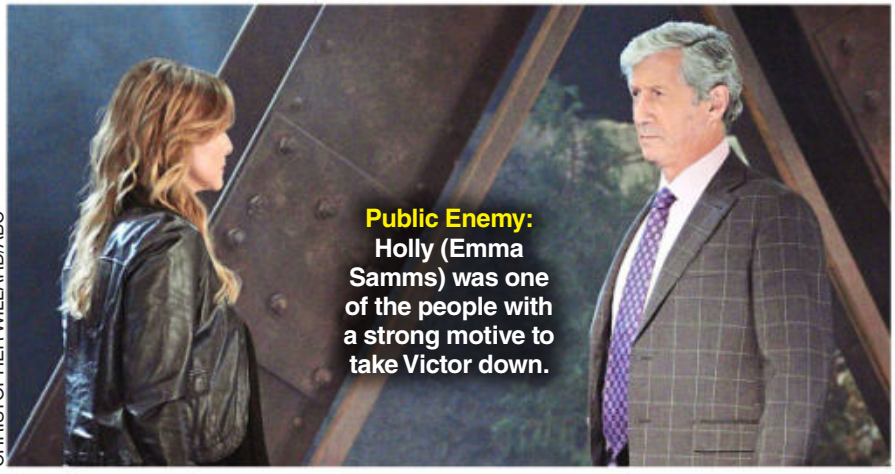
Shaughnessy: Oh, yes. I was sad because it's been such a fun run. I've just really enjoyed Victor. I've loved the people there. It's been a wonderful place to work. It's been a great gig so it is sad that it had to come to an end, but it did. I mean, there was no way that Victor could have wriggled out of this legitimately!

Digest: On the plus side, the last arc of Victor was really delicious; I felt like you were given the freedom to just go full bore as a villain.

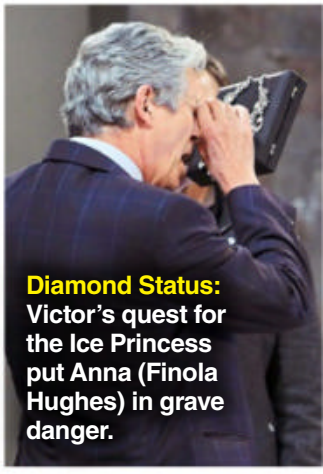
Shaughnessy: Yes, it suddenly went up a notch to James Bond villain ruthlessness. I loved the bit on the deck of the ship where he's talking to Spencer and Trina — I actually ad-libbed the line and did my *Godfather* reference, which is, "Spencer, you break my heart," and then I throw him overboard. It was fun and I like that they made his motive this sort of twisted environmentalist-gone-overboard, where he's really doing it to save the planet and help humanity because people are just so awful. It's not a great way of solving the problem and keeping his family safe, murdering eight billion innocent people, but I liked that there was sort of a crazy rationale to it. I thought that made it much more tasty.

Digest: How did you formally learn that Victor was doomed?

Shaughnessy: Well, I knew my contract was up in April and I always knew that it was going to be a storyline; I was never coming on to join the cast for good, I was coming on to play this storyline, this sort of 1980s throwback, Ice Princess thing that was originally going to be much quicker. Originally, they were going to wrap it up in six months. Then it sort of got extended, and then I had to have hip surgery, which



Public Enemy: Holly (Emma Samms) was one of the people with a strong motive to take Victor down.



Diamond Status: Victor's quest for the Ice Princess put Anna (Finola Hughes) in grave danger.

CHRISTOPHER WILLARD/ABC

took me out for a while. They said, "Well, look, why don't you just come back and have a year?" So I came back and did a full year, which would finish in April. I knew that was coming up and that we'd be at the end of taping the May sweeps story, so it made sense. There was no kind of formal, "Thanks but no thanks," but at some point they officially let my agent know that they weren't going to pick up the contract after [its completion]. And, you know, that had clearly become impossible. Victor could not suddenly be redeemed in any way. They needed to conclude the story and the only way they could conclude the story was with Victor either being dead or in prison. So, there was no real surprise, it was just a sort of growing sadness. People at work were like, "Oh, I can't believe you're leaving, it has been so fun!" It was all a bit sad, but at the same time, we were wrapping up a very satisfying story.

Digest: When you think back on your time at GH, who are the people that most stick out to you as having been fun to work opposite?

Shaughnessy: Really, they all were, and each one different. Marcus [Coloma, ex-Nikolas] and I would talk for hours off camera when we were in the green room and meant to be running lines. We would just have these great discussions about acting and about the business and life in general. I really enjoyed playing scenes with Nick Chavez [Spencer], who is just so talented and very professional and always interested in finding an angle or something interesting to do with a character and a situation and a line. I loved working with the ladies I got to work with. I was working with Maura [West, Ava] a lot in the beginning and that was fantastic because she's so good and we had this great sort of sparring, cagey, "What are you really up to?" relationship on camera. I loved sparring with Finola [Hughes, Anna] and Tristan [Rogers, Robert]; they were great fun as adversaries. The great history between the Cassadines and Laura gave a great depth to working with Genie [Francis]. I felt like when he was being snide and arch with Laura, there was even more menace [than he showed with others]. Laura certainly had reason to want him dead. Same with Holly; he shot Holly's sister in front of her and kidnapped her son and tried to sell him to the highest bidder! I also had a lot of fun working with Michael Knight [Martin] and James Patrick Stuart [Valentin]. I could go on and on!

Digest: You know who I worry about in all this? Victor's never-ending parade of henchmen, all of whom are now probably filing for unemployment!

Shaughnessy: I know, there was a different guy each week with a different name! So many henchmen. They're probably all trying to get into Sonny's gang now. They've probably got letters of recommendation in their pockets from Victor. I'm sure one

PHOTOS: CHRISTINE BARTOLUCCI/ABC

Yacht Club: Shaughnessy enjoyed working with the "talented and very professional" Nicholas Chavez, who plays Victor's grandnephew/*Haunted Star* hostage, Spencer.

of the last things Victor did was write those letters of recommendation. "You're looking for a ruthless killer? I can't recommend Ambrose highly enough!"

Digest: The GH audience grew very fond of having you on their screens wreaking havoc. Anything you would like to say to them?

Shaughnessy: I just really appreciate how quickly they got their heads and their arms around Victor, because he was meddling with some of their favorite characters. I appreciate the people who would say on social media, "We love Victor. We hate him but we love him." And some were like, "We hate Victor so much, we just wish he would hurry up and die!" And I appreciate that, too, because it means, yes, clearly, I was doing my job! I got a kick out of all the different reactions. I'm not new to soaps, so I know the devotion and the loyalty that soap fans have and it was very nice to be embraced by them and to be very quickly brought into that family and that pantheon of characters. It was nothing less than a fully satisfying and fun and positive experience in every way — and as I say, I'm not convinced Victor is completely gone. It may just be a ghost, like how Helena comes back to haunt someone's dreams. I just have a feeling, because there's always a use for a villain and Victor filled a good role. It was a niche I think they needed. I'm not sure he's gone for good, but he's definitely taking a sabbatical!

Digest: Well, as someone who grew up loving you as a hero on DAYS, it's been great to love to hate you as a villain. I mean, my goodness — you shot Anna Devane!

Shaughnessy: Right, point blank and in cold blood! And shooting Holly's sister and throwing Eileen over the bridge. That's when you know you're bad to the bone! But it was so much fun to do those things. When I first came out [to Los Angeles] I was playing bad guys all the time. My very first TV job, I played a minor bad guy on GH, Holly's cousin, Alistair, but my audition for DAYS was to play a man called "McShane, Mystery Man" who was terrorizing Hope in a basement. I went in with a leather jacket and jeans and stubble, looking more like Patch than Shane, as this Cockney thug terrorizing Hope and it was great fun. Then they cast me and made me this incredibly good guy, but before that, it was villains all the time. Shane was this, you know, Dudley Do-Right and it's just not as much fun! So I'm glad to be back being the bad guy. It's great! I've covered all the bases — sitcoms, soap opera hero, soap opera villain, cartoon fish [the animated series STANLEY] and song-and-dance man on Broadway! I've done it all and I have no intention of not working. That's the great thing about this job. If someone's got an interesting, fun thing for me to do, I'll be doing it until I'm 103, God willing! □

Digest's Hottest Shots

A slew of DAYS stars headed to New Jersey for a weekend of events courtesy of Star Struck Fan Events.

FAMILY FIRST
The DiMera clan was well represented by (from l.) Carson Boatman (Johnny), Thaao Penghlis (Tony), Dan Feuerriegel (EJ), Leann Hunley (Anna) and Billy Flynn (Chad). "I love coming out and meeting people, hearing their stories of how my character, or the show, has been able to affect them in a positive way over the years," enthused Boatman.

DANCING QUEENS
GH's (from l.) Cynthia Watros (Nina), Maura West (Ava), Laura Wright (Carly) and Eden McCoy (Josslyn) held a Ladies of the '80s dance party at Governor's Levittown in New York.

PHOTOS: STEVEN BERGMAN

SIGNED, SEALED, DELIVERED
Greg Rikaart (Leo; Kevin, Y&R, l.) and Eric Martsolf (Brady) showed their support for one another.

ROCK ON
GH alums Marcus Coloma (ex-Nikolas, l.) and Johnny Wactor (ex-Brando) spent an evening singing karaoke with fans in New York City.

WINNER, WINNER
Vito Lacerenza (front row, c.) from Great Meadows, NJ, was the winning bidder in the silent auction to appear in *Digest* with the actors in attendance, including Zach Tinker (ex-Sonny; ex-Fen, Y&R, bottom row, r.), which benefited Hope House.

classic lines

Forget ABBOTT ELEMENTARY! Some Of TV's Funniest Lines Are On Soaps.

DAYS OF OUR LIVES

(Chloe and Xander discuss her love life.)

Xander: "It's not like Brady Black is the only fish in the sea. There's plenty of handsome, available men in Salem."

Chloe: "Like who?"

Xander: "What am I? Chopped haggis?"

Chloe: "No, but you are the man who left me in the clutches of a Mexican drug lord."

Xander: "You're just never gonna let that go, huh?"

Chloe: "It's kind of hard to do."

Xander: "Fine. I admit that I have some flaws and have behaved abominably at times. But come on, compared to Brady, I mean, I'm much better looking, I'm more intelligent, I have broader shoulders. I'm wittier, wiser, I have this charming accent ... Still can't let the 'left you to die' stuff go, huh?"

Chloe: "Nope. Still can't let it go."

GENERAL HOSPITAL

(Brook Lynn vents to Sonny about her busy schedule.)

Brook Lynn: "Planning a wedding in 24 hours is not for the faint of heart."

(Robert and Diane chat about how well she handles herself as he works on her car.)

Robert: "You would have made a good spy."

Diane: "I've always wanted to be a spy!"

Robert: "Actually, scratch that."

Diane: "There goes the dream."

By The Numbers: Y&R's Nikki (Melody Thomas Scott) played nice with Milton (Mo Rocca).

HOWARD WISE/JPI

YOUNG AND RESTLESS

(Nikki tells Michael that she knows Diane is guilty of killing Phyllis.)

Michael: "Our Constitution assures all citizens are innocent until proven otherwise, even the ones who don't measure up or haven't earned your seal of approval."

Nikki: "According to the Constitution, yes, but the Founding Fathers never met Diane."

(Nikki runs into Milton at Society.)

Nikki: "Hello, Milton. It's been a while. How are things in accounting?"

Milton: "Everything is adding up. That was —"

Nikki: "An accounting joke. Yeah, I get it. And how's your wife, Sarah is it?"

Milton: "Excellent memory. We're divorced."

Nikki: "Oh, I'm sorry to hear that."

Milton: "Don't be. Turns out she hated my accounting jokes."

(Milton makes his crush on Nikki known.)

Milton: "What we should do is buy matching motorcycles and travel across the country, playing guitars around a campfire and looking up at the stars."

Nikki: "Oh, Milton, darling. I don't play guitar." □

tricks of the

sean kanan (deacon)

GILLES TOUCAS/COURTESY OF BELL-PHILLIP TELEVISION INC.

How do you memorize a long monologue? "The first thing is you have to clearly understand each scene — the goal and the obstacles, and what you need to do to obtain the goal. When it comes to learning the monologue, what comes first to me is what is the character going after. And then, of course, to whom I'm speaking. There are tricks like grouping the ideas together, but if you have an understanding of the emotional connection to the person you're talking to, the words fall into place."

What do you do if your scene partner doesn't feed you a cue you're expecting or forgets a line? How do you recover from that to keep the scene going? "I usually am able to nip and tuck, but if it is critical, I will pause and wait in what may seem like an eternity but in reality it is milliseconds. It happens to everybody. How can you not when you are memorizing 30 pages of dialogue? But you just start again."

How do you break down a complicated script? "It goes into goal, obstacle and action. There are things you want ahead of time, and it is about goals, obstacles and action. You want a listening moment before to set it up, but it is about being as connected to the other actor as you can be while allowing things to unfold moment to moment. You have to remain open to the infinite possibilities that can emerge from a scene."

How do you deal with crying scenes? "It's about an emotional recall, and there are physical tricks, too. One of the best ways it was described to me is you imagine someone is pouring a pitcher of water on the back of your throat. Your throat begins to tighten. It constricts. Your eyes tend to water. But I find is the best way is to be a good listener. I should be able to get what I need from them in a scene. There are actor techniques, but there is nothing when there are no tools to use. Sometimes you get lucky in the moment with your scene partner and that's what works."

How do you approach playing drunk? "When you are playing drunk and you are crying, you are trying not to cry and are pretending to be sober when you are physically not. It is the struggle to overcome that facilitates."

How do you prepare for a love scene? "Not eating for 24 hours before [*laughs*]. Again, it is about creating a connection. You want there to be danger and passion and everything that will heighten the sexuality but it is so important that your scene partner feels safe with you. The safety issue needs to be [addressed]. There are technical parameters with camera and lighting that you have to adhere to, but you have to keep all of that in your head and just let it go. It is all about being professional. I want to make it fun and sexy but it really is all about what the crew needs to get. There are so many com-

trade

4 stars reveal their strategies for handling the acting challenges thrown their way.

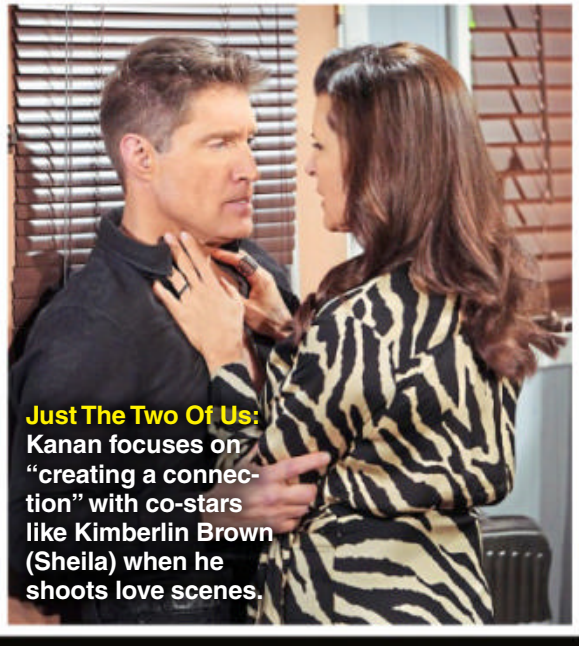
ponents involved."

How do you approach playing the dramatic tag at the end of a scene? "That is the nature of the beast. Knowing the tag is an extended look, which is longer than it would be in real life, what I will do as run-through [rehearsal] is a rapid succession of non-verbal looks. I know the editing room, and I know they will have what they need and what they choose. I did two PERRY MASON things with Raymond Burr, and he would have volumes of legal dialogue to cite and he told me, 'Think about your grocery list.' You can deceive the camera in terms of what you are thinking about and connect to it. Look engaged, and that will influence the audience. Acting is not waiting for your cue from your scene partner. You have to stay connected and convey emotion, often without words."

What do you do when you get the giggles during taping? "That happens! I love to laugh, but usually we will laugh it out for a second and then look away from each other. It comes down to changing your state to quickly and effectively get out of that state. Walk into a corner. Talk to yourself. Whatever you need to do. But I have to say when you are doing something heavy and emotional, sometimes it is good to have a laugh to relieve the tension."

How do you handle shooting scenes out of order? "That comes down to knowing what your preceding circumstances are. It is not [my preferred way to work] but it is a part of acting. Whenever it is TV or a movie, you are always shooting out of sequence. You need to know where you are emotionally. Keep in mind if you were crying beforehand, if your eyes are puffy and red. You need to remember the moment and keep the sequence in check."

How do you handle a scene partner who ad-libs? "I worked with the great Darlene Conley [ex-Sally]. I never ad-libbed when I got on the show, and thank God I have such a group of writers and producers and actors now when it comes up. I will never forget the first scene I had with Darlene and I looked offstage and they were like, 'We'll fix it in post.' She would just go off, but now I believe one of the greatest attributes an actor can have is to nip and tuck to convey what the writers conveyed, but every now and then, you have to put in your own emotional voice just to hit those notes. I respect our incredible writers and usually I will clear it before and during rehearsal. The actors have to be aware of it. I specifically try to not change the last line, which is the other actor's cue. That's kind of disrespectful."



Just The Two Of Us: Kanan focuses on "creating a connection" with co-stars like Kimberlin Brown (Sheila) when he shoots love scenes.

HOWARD WISE/JPI

judi evans
(bonnie)

How do you memorize a long monologue? "Honestly, it can be a lot easier than dialogue, because usually a monologue is telling a story. Each line leads to the next line, which leads to the next bit of the story. The only thing that sometimes is hard is when you're saying a lot of names, like companies or people. When you're trying to remember the order, sometimes you have to use little tricks. Like if it's Alice, Tom and then you're saying Hope and Bo in that order, you have to remember A, T, H, B. You know you're going to get to that, so in the back of your mind you're going, 'A, T, H, B.' Sometimes they'll use a lot of adjectives in a row starting with same letter, so I have to memorize them in a way to keep them in the right order. It's like using both sides of your brain at the same time."

What do you do if your scene partner doesn't feed you a cue you're expecting or forgets a line? "This is where, if you're really prepared, it's easy. It means you know your lines, which also means you know their lines. If you have done your homework about what the scene is about and what your character is trying to do and all that, then you can relax. You're not thinking about your lines and you're listening. So when your scene partner says something and it's different, or they give you a different cue, you can take what they say, twist it around, and move it into the dialogue that you are saying."

How do you break down a complicated script? "First I get the lines down completely. Then it's, 'What is the scene about?' 'What do I need to get in the scene?' 'Where have I come from?' Even to the point when I'm walking in the door: 'Did I drive myself?' 'Did a driver drive me?' 'Did I have road rage?' It's really breaking down the character and doing that extra homework. I usually learn my lines at least a week in advance, then I'm mentally thinking about the scene and what the nuances will be. You have to figure out all the different things you're feeling."

How do you handle your nerves before a big scene? "I have nerves every single day I walk out on the set. I always feel like, 'Today might be my last day.' I just try to focus on what the scene's about and breathe. Because I've done my homework, it channels those nerves into nervous energy, which channels into the scene. If I hadn't done my homework, I would be a mess. Sometimes I still am a mess, if I have a lot of dialogue. I'm a perfectionist, and I really have a lot of respect for our writers. They took the time to write the script. I want to say it exactly how they wrote it, but make it my own. I'm such a stickler for that."

How do you like to run lines with a scene partner? "As much as humanly possible. Usually when you're running lines with another actor, it's the first time you're actually hearing it. You're hearing what they're bringing into it, and that might change something that you're going to play. It can give you some surprises. You also get a bigger perspective sometimes about what the scene's about and what you're doing in it. Hopefully, you're running it so much and so hard that you know it backwards and forwards, so in that moment you can do something totally different and it will add another layer to the scene. It's like doing sit-ups until it burns, and then you end up with a washboard."

How do you cry on cue? Is it easy or hard for you? "It's always hard; I'm just open to the emotions. It may not happen on the line they wrote it on, but if I'm committed in the scene and where it's going, it's going to come, hopefully. I can't cry on cue because I don't do fake tears. I can't squeeze out a tear. I've got to be in that moment. I've got to be feeling whatever I'm feeling and it's going to come when it's going to come."

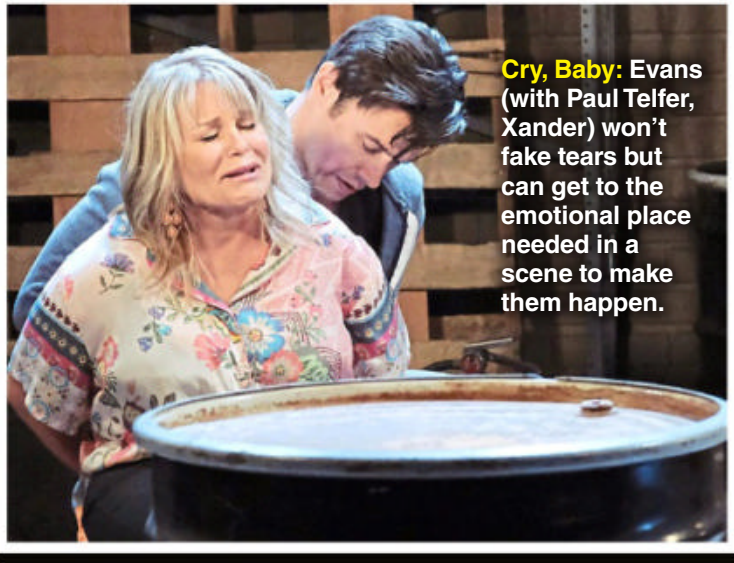
How do you prepare for stunts/fight scenes? "That's so exciting. That brings out the tomboy in me. I can't wait to do them. Sometimes the stunt guys will come in and they [start explaining things]. I'll go, 'No, no, no. I'll take the fall. I'm good. I've got three older brothers. Believe me, I can do it.' I get all excited and start thinking about it ahead of time, especially with physical comedy. When they write that stuff in it's big and broad, and I like it. It's a break from the crying."

How do you prepare for love scenes? "I have to be honest, I work with great guys, but it's always kind of uncomfortable. You're playing very intimate scenes in front of a lot of people on the set. That's always uncomfortable. I always have body issues and I sweat like a pig because I get so nervous and uncomfortable. Because I have negative issues about my body, I get really tense about it. So I'm thinking about it and sweating. Then the moment comes, that's out the window, we're in the scene, it's over, and I'm comfortable again until I leave."

What do you do when you can't remember a line? "There's that moment of panic, but you just have to relax. Usually, if you just take a breath, it comes to you. Or, if you've known in rehearsal that you're doing a hiccup on a certain line, you have to figure out what mental note to give yourself in character. What's going to make me think of it? Because you want to save the scene. If you mess up too much, eventually they let you go because time is money."

How do you shake off feeling like you didn't do your best work in a scene? "That's really hard, because nobody beats me up better than I do. It's so important to do my best. If it's not my best, I'm so dejected. I think about all the ways I could have done it better all the way home and the next few days. Then I have to shake it off later. I go, 'Look. You did your homework. You did the best you could.' Sometimes the stars just aren't in alignment. You've got 52 weeks here, so hopefully tomorrow or the next will make up for it. Because not every day is going to be your best."

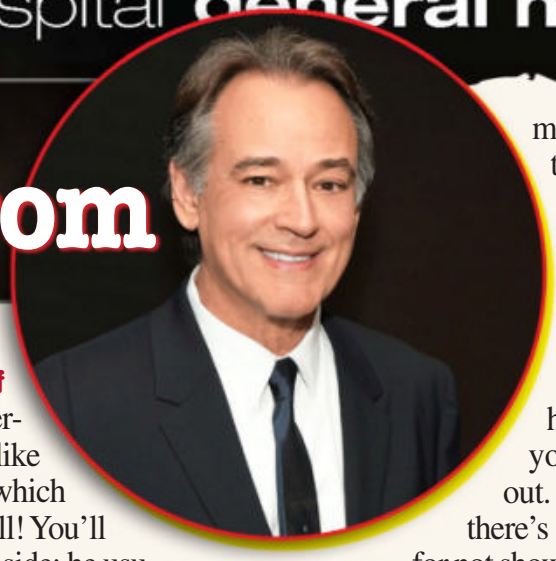
Is there a ritual or anything specific you do to get into character? "Mostly when I walk onto the soundstage, I'm already in character. I get up in the morning and think, 'How's Bonnie brushing her teeth? How's Bonnie taking a shower?' I'm always thinking about Bonnie — how she drives, how she grocery shops.... And when I'm doing things, I'm always thinking about how Bonnie's doing things. When I'm starting to drive to work, I'm already in Bonnie's world. When I'm on set, sometimes I'll be Judi for a minute in between scenes, technically, but I can slam into Bonnie."



Cry, Baby: Evans (with Paul Telfer, Xander) won't fake tears but can get to the emotional place needed in a scene to make them happen.

XJ JOHNSON/JPI

jon lindstrom
(kevin)



KRISTINA BUMPHREY/SHUTTERSTOCK

■ **What is your approach to the dramatic tag at the end of a scene?** "I think there are different ways you can approach it, like the Kin Shriner [Scott] way, which is basically, don't hold still at all! You'll see him kind of looking side to side; he usually plays it like a flummoxed moment. But I think for me, I have to find a way to think about the last thing I said as if I'm trying to make a point. That's really all you can do. You just have to pull your technique in and hold your look and hope that somebody will say, 'Cut!' It's funny; it's a pretty standard requirement of the job, but there is nothing natural about it."

How do you handle being in a scene with someone who ad-libs? "I'm somebody that really likes to stick to the text, but in daytime, writers are banging out so many shows and we're shooting so many shows that [actors] have to be forgiven a little bit when it comes to, 'I know a better way to say this,' or, 'I have a way that my character would say this.' But making a line change is one thing, and an ad-lib is a little different. As long as it's appropriate and still in the context of what we're talking about in a scene, I welcome it. Working with someone who does ad-lib a lot, like Kin, keeps it fresh, it keeps you on your toes and it keeps an energy in the scene that otherwise could be lost, if you're just becoming too rote about what's on the page. You just have to make sure you're paying attention!"

What do you do when you can tell your scene partner can't remember their next line? "I usually just wait for them! I usually just give them a look that says, 'No, it's your turn, man!' That doesn't really happen a lot anymore. There was a time when there was a lot more leeway [in the production schedule] where you could see the panic in the other actor's eyes and they're hoping, really hoping, that you'll bail them out. But nowadays, there's really no excuse for not showing up with your lines ready to go, so I really feel like, 'You didn't learn your lines, man. That's *your* problem.' But having said that, nobody's perfect, so normally we'll just stop and do a pickup [of where the dialogue left off]. We all mess up and when that happens, you just have to stop and start again."

What do you do when *you* can't remember a line? "I'll look around, or I'll pull a Brando. Marlon Brando never learned his lines later in his career and would put little notes around the set and he would read them. *I* don't have notes on the set, but when he would do it, it just looked like he was thinking. So I will pause until the line comes back, but hopefully, I can mask it to look like somebody in there is thinking about what he's going to say next! That works with Kevin, because he's so deliberate with his words. I have a built-in safety net."

How do you cope with last-minute line changes? "The only way to do that is to just roll with it. You have to expect that it's going to happen eventually. Things happen — shows run long or somebody doesn't show up because they got sick or were in a car accident. Things just change sometimes, life happens, and if you can't roll with it, man, pick another career! Pick another life! I don't really mind it that much. The only time it's a bit irritating is when you've learned a lot of material and suddenly they're going to cut a page-and-a-half of it, because you put a lot of work into it. But you know what?

That's the job, that's what they're paying you to do: deliver what they need. So, you do it and move on."

What is your process for learning a long monologue? "It's like memorizing anything else, even the give-and-take of a dialogue scene. For me, the best way to do it is to break it down into sections of what it's about, in terms of what happens, what am I talking about? In a dialogue scene, it's like this exchange, right? We're talking about going to the store. I bought some muffins, [you ask me if] the muffins were blueberry, I say, 'Yes, but then I put poison in them.' A monologue is basically the same thing. I'm just kind of saying to someone, 'Well, I went to a store, I bought some muffins, they were blueberry muffins. And after I left the store and got back to my car, I put in poison, I knew that feeding them to somebody was going to make me feel very guilty. But I wanted that person dead anyway. So I went ahead and did it.' You break it down into sections as if you were breaking it down into paragraphs so that you have a logical line of thought to follow, which is like any scene. Any good scene, anyway, has a logical train of thought. Anyway, then you just drop your chin and really do your best to learn the actual lines, and knowing that order really helps you do that."

How do you approach shooting scenes out of order? "Things aren't shot in order as much as they used to be [on GH], and you deal with it by really learning that day's [script] so that you understand that at this point, this is what happens with the character. You just have to get yourself to a place where you can say, 'Okay, at this stage, I'm really pissed off,' or, 'I'm really emotional.' It adds a little more work, but the fact of the matter is that even if you're shooting in order, you still have to kind of come back to where you left off. There's an actor phrase, 'What is your moment before?' And if you remember your moment before [the scene starts], that helps immeasurably to give you a place to start from."

How do you prepare for a scene that requires a high degree of emotional difficulty, such as one where you might be asked to cry? "Well, if you want to do it right, with some sense of reality to it, you really have to challenge yourself and drop in. I don't like the Method approach of dredging up some terrible memory; I think that's unhealthy. But we do have our imaginations available to us all the time, and if you really challenge yourself and think about, 'What would it be like if this really happened to me?' So much of acting is finding similarities between yourself and the character you're playing, and if I were to really, truly imagine how I would feel in a situation, it makes it easier, or at least gives me a place to come from. And then I just try to be as ruthlessly naked about it as I can. That doesn't mean I tell anyone what I'm thinking about or what I'm working with, but that's what works for me."

Never A Dull Moment: Working with Kin Shriner (Scott) keeps Lindstrom on his toes. Also pictured: Genie Francis as Laura.

LILIANE LATHAN/ABC

camryn grimes
(mariah)

CHELSEA LAUREN/SHUTTERSTOCK

How do you memorize a long monologue? "I have an auditory and photographic memory, so those work in combination. When I have to read something, it kind of acts as music in my brain. It's really easy for me to memorize because I see and hear sound and words. When I get a heavy monologue, I really only have to scan it. I can learn a two-page monologue easily if it's written in a way that makes sense for the brain. I'll read it over a few times before bed and let it sink in, and then wake up the next day and as I'm getting ready, I kind of drill it in. Where it really comes together for me is when I'm rehearsing with the other actors. I hear their music and then it all cohesively goes together for me."

How do you remember your blocking? "I think that's a style with soaps, in particular, and when you've been doing it a long time, you kind of instinctively know what the next move [of your character within a scene] will be. It's the dance and the beat. I just naturally don't feel like I should sit there, because dialogue doesn't really infer that, so it's a combination between your directors and the blocking to make sure it makes sense. But usually, for the most part, I will go and stand in a position or make a move and the director will be like, 'How did you know to go there?' After a while, you just get the gist of it, because you know your set and the places in which people move and you can kind of predict where to go."

How do you prepare for an emotional or crying scene? "On days that are going to be emotionally draining, I make sure to have a lot of fun beforehand. For me, you don't want to play into the emotion too quickly and I'm a very jovial person, so blocking and rehearsal are great for getting the happy out of my system, but it's really dependent for me because I think acting is so much about listening and reacting. I also want to make sure that I'm there with my scene partner, which is most important to me. It's not a solo thing; we need to be in it together. It really is a collaboration and figuring out where that emotion is living and playing to that rather than what is scripted."

How do you cry on cue? "I've learned from the best with Eric [Braeden, Victor], Sharon [Case, Sharon], Josh [Morrow, Nick], Melody [Thomas Scott, Nikki] and Peter [Bergman, Jack]. I can even manipulate what eyeball the tears come out of. If I know that the tag will be on me, I can hold it and make that teardrop fall. There have been scenes where I'm not meant to cry, but my scene partner is making me cry. There are scenes where I'm supposed to cry but I couldn't get there — and that's okay. You don't have to cry to be hurt, and although crying can be a wonderful tool, it is not the endgame. I usually get there by taking my cues off of where the scene is going naturally and what's transpiring between me and my scene partner. We shoot chronologically, so we tell the story as it goes, which is helpful, so when I tap back into wherever my character is, it kind of naturally leads there."

How do you approach playing the tag at the end of a scene? "It's second nature but I don't know a single time where somebody doesn't make fun or laugh at tags. You stay in it for as long as possible, which is really longer than people would think, especially if somebody asks you a question and you

don't answer the question. That's extremely unnatural. So you just hold it for as long as you can until you essentially break character and laugh. It's a storytelling device to keep the audience guessing and wondering. You accept it as a part of the job and try to be as authentic as possible."

What do you do when you can't remember a line? "I just fully admit it. I'll just say, 'Can we go again?' Sometimes I can save it, but usually I don't if I'm struggling with the line. I think the biggest sign of somebody who could have gone up on a line but maybe kept going is when they look up and then to the left and right because they're trying to remember. That's the biggest tell."

How do you approach playing drunk? "When it comes to playing drunk, you have to be really careful or it becomes totally absurd. When I did the scene for the girls' night with Amelia [Heinle, Victoria], Melody and Sharon, I brought a bottle of tequila [as Mariah] and at one point, before we were set to go, I opened it and it was real tequila. We didn't drink any of it, but somebody said, 'Oh, here's a good trick. Take a sniff, bend over with your head down and spin.' I did that and went into the scene and something about the smell mixed with that kind of dizziness, I was like, 'Oh, my God, that worked!' I was feeling a little loopy and I was talking quicker and interrupting more. So that was a tip that really helped me, which I would definitely use again. You also have to choose the slurring of the words correctly; otherwise it's not realistic. You sort of change the cadence in which you would talk."

How do you shake the feeling that you didn't do a scene as good as you could have? "That's also something that comes with the territory. Most actors are their own worst critics, so you're always going to think about something post-doing it and be like, 'God, I could have done this differently.' Very rarely are you 100 percent satisfied. There are moments where I might not have been as present as I would have liked to be and I get upset. If you didn't do your best, it'll ruminate and bug you. You just learn to make peace with your choices and say, 'That's where the character was at that moment and I'm okay with it.' "

What is your approach to love scenes? "First of all, they're heavily rehearsed, so you know how to move your head at this particular moment and not block the light. Love scenes are the least sexy things you can imagine. We are so happy that on screen, they come across as being romantic and sexual and intimate, but it's the opposite for us. I don't know a single person that enjoys [shooting] them. There's usually a deep groan of disdain when you read you have one. I don't particularly like being semi-naked on screen, but that's a personal insecurity. I just try to lean into the moment and be present with Cait [Fairbanks, Tessa]. It helps if you have been with your scene partner for a long time and very comfortable with kissing. We definitely ask each other questions, like, 'What do you wanna do here?' and then it becomes collaborative and you're not feeling alone in it."

Bottle Service: Grimes got a helpful tip for playing drunk in a scene with Sharon Case (Sharon, l.) and Amelia Heinle (Victoria).

HOWARD WISE/JPI

calendar

events

Who: GH cast
What: Official General Hospital Convention
When: Fri.-Sun., June 9-11
Where: Marriott Burbank Airport Hotel, 2500 North Hollywood Way, Burbank, CA
How: To purchase tickets, visit creationent.com/cal/gh_burbank.html.

DiMera Days: Meet DAYS's Carson Boatman (Johnny, l.) and Dan Feuerriegel (EJ) in Florida.

STEVEN BERGMAN

Who: DAYS's Patrika Darbo (ex-Nancy) and Bryan R. Dattilo (Lucas), GH's Kathleen Gati (Obrecht) and Johnny Wactor (ex-Brando), and Y&R's Kate Linder (Esther) and Jordi Vilasuso (ex-Rey)
What: Murder Mystery Dinner Theater
When: Sat., June 24
Where: Atlanta Motorcar Club, 1645 Redi Road, Cumming, GA
How: Tickets are available at campdreamga.org/events.

Who: DAYS's Carson Boatman (Johnny), Eric Martsolf (Brady), Dan Feuerriegel (EJ), Mike Manning (ex-Charlie), GH's Tristan Rogers (Robert) and Wactor, Kristos Andrews (Pete, THE BAY) and Vilasuso
What: Personal Appearance to benefit Samantha's Friends
When: Sat.-Sun., Sept. 9-10
Where: Lakewood Ranch Golf & Country Club, 7650 Legacy Boulevard, Lakewood Ranch, FL
How: For ticket information, call Alice at 941-518-3906 or email aaalice1948@aol.com.

Who: GH's Evan Hofer (Dex) and Eden McCoy (Josslyn)
What: Personal Appearance
When: Sun., Sept. 10
Where: Stress Factory, 90 Church Street, New Brunswick, NJ
How: Tickets can be purchased from coastalentertainment.com/events and are $99 for VIP and $49 for General Admission.

CRAIG SJODIN/ABC

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I SPY

Steffy confronts Hope about her feelings for Thomas. Hope and Steffy hash it out about what's going on with Hope.

Thomas reflects on hearing what Steffy said to Hope about him when Ridge enters. Ridge realizes that something is on Thomas's mind but Thomas covers, contending he's only considering the pre-sale numbers.

R.J. speaks to Thomas about the connection he's witnessing between Hope and Thomas. Thomas assures R.J. that he has no romantic interest in Hope. R.J. then asks Thomas to help him get Ridge to back off regarding having R.J. work at Forrester Creations.

MOTHER'S SAY

While Liam is paying his check at Il Giardino, Taylor approaches and the two talk about Thomas, as well as Liam's feelings about whether Thomas has truly changed or not. Taylor attempts to convince Liam that Thomas's feelings toward Hope are purely professional.

HOPE APLENTY

At home, Hope and Liam kiss. Hope then details to Liam the romantic night she has planned for them while the children are away. Hope also assures Liam that despite her heavy workload, she will put more effort into their marriage. They make love.

KISS AND TELL

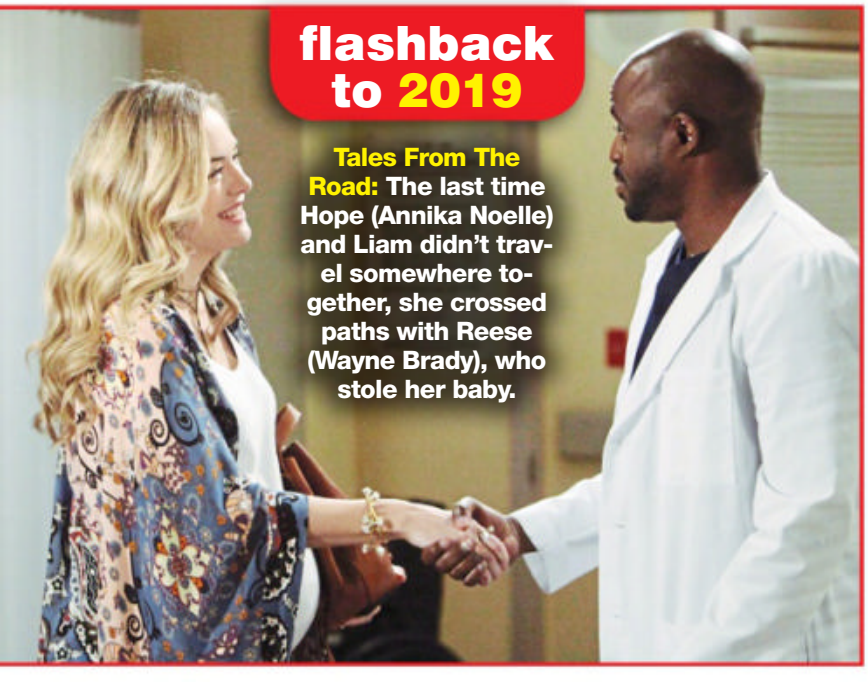
Steffy and Finn enjoy a romantic moment after Finn returns from the beach, and they let each other know how lucky they are to have each other. Then, Steffy reveals to Finn that she saw a private moment between Hope and Thomas and confides that she worries that Hope has feelings for her brother.

HOPELESSLY DEVOTED

The next day, Steffy rattles Hope out of her daydreams of Thomas. Steffy makes it clear to Hope that she was bothered by witnessing the close moment between Hope and Thomas. She demands to know if Hope has feelings for Thomas. Hope promises Steffy that she is devoted to Liam.

FAMILY THERAPY

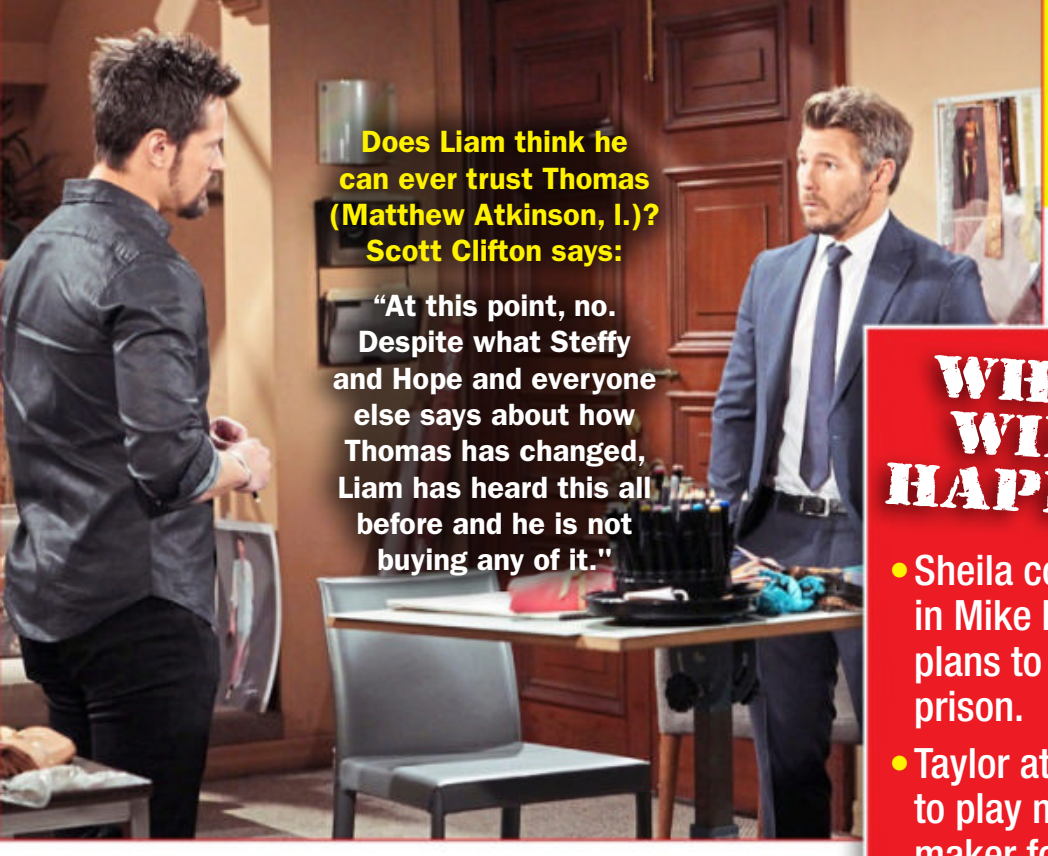
Taylor and Thomas talk about his therapy. Taylor reveals how proud she is of her son for doing the work in his growth and development.



flashback to 2019

Tales From The Road: The last time Hope (Annika Noelle) and Liam didn't travel somewhere together, she crossed paths with Reese (Wayne Brady), who stole her baby.

PHOTOS: HOWARD WISE/JPI



Does Liam think he can ever trust Thomas (Matthew Atkinson, l.)? Scott Clifton says:

"At this point, no. Despite what Steffy and Hope and everyone else says about how Thomas has changed, Liam has heard this all before and he is not buying any of it."

WHAT WILL HAPPEN

- Sheila confides in Mike her plans to escape prison.
- Taylor attempts to play match-maker for Deacon.
- Sheila gets more than she bargained for when Finn visits her in jail.
- Brooke worries while witnessing a moment between Thomas and Hope.

TRUST ISSUES

Liam confides in Wyatt that as much as he knows that Hope is loyal, he doesn't trust Thomas and doesn't buy into the narrative that he has changed.

Later, Finn questions Liam about his concerns about Thomas. Finn attempts to quell Liam's worries by pointing out how much Thomas has changed. Steffy seconds that Thomas has no interest in interfering in Liam's marriage.

TRAVEL TALK

Carter informs Thomas and Hope that they must travel together to San Francisco to meet with buyers. Liam arrives at Hope's office and learns she and Thomas are going on a business trip together. Thomas promises Liam that he has nothing to worry about. Hope then assures Liam that he is the love of her life and she is committed to him. Later, Hope is flooded with emotion as she and Thomas prepare for San Francisco.

STUCK ON YOU

In San Francisco, Hope texts Liam while he's with Steffy to tell him that the meeting was a success and that she will be home soon. Steffy is happy for Liam, as she knows this trip was stressful. Hope receives word from the Forrester pilot that there is a delay in their journey home and she worries that Liam will get the wrong idea. Thomas tries to find a solution to their travel woes. Hope calls Liam to break the bad news that her return trip is delayed. After they hang up, Liam asks Steffy if she thinks this is something for him to worry about. Meanwhile, Thomas orders dinner for him and Hope. □

days of our lives

BABY ON BOARD

Gabi is at first reluctant to believe that Nicole is really in pain, but takes her to the hospital. Kayla asks Nicole about her menstrual cycle and wonders if Nicole could be starting menopause. Kayla runs some blood tests, then stuns Nicole with the news she's pregnant. They discuss her complicated medical history, and Nicole reveals she's not sure whether the father is Eric or EJ.

EJ and Eric come to blows over the revelation that Eric and Nicole slept together while high on tainted biscuits. Later, Eric calls Nicole to warn her EJ knows about them but is forced to leave a message.

EJ is upset to learn from Gabi that Nicole is at the hospital and heads there. EJ then reveals he knows she and Eric slept together, but he surprises her by being understanding and forgives her. Nicole then keeps her pregnancy news from him and says she may be entering early menopause.

KATE FATE

In Greece, Steve and Chad learn Andrew has enlisted Harris to help with the search for Kate. Steve initially balks at the idea, but later, he grudgingly agrees to bring Harris onboard. Somewhere in the Mediterranean, Kate gets the better of the henchman holding her hostage. Later, Kate finally comes face-to-face with her unseen abductor: Dimitri Von Leuschner. He hints at his plans for her but isn't ready to reveal them just yet. Meanwhile, Chad tells Roman about Harris helping in the search for Kate. Both men remain hopeful Kate will be found alive.

DOOR STOP

New roomies Chloe and Xander have a discussion about their household chores. After, they run into Jada at the pub, where Xander mentions seeing Talia at the White Dove Motel with a guy.

Talia reports to Colin that her date with Chanel went well. When Colin and Talia discuss plans for Paulina, Jada overhears Paulina's name come up. After Talia abruptly hangs up, Jada questions her, but she quickly covers. Later, Colin is startled when Jada arrives at his door.

Paulina and Abe talk to Chanel about her date the night before. Later, Paulina receives another threatening text.

CHOOSE WISELY

In Seattle, Tripp and Wendy nearly kiss when they're interrupted by a phone call from Johnny. After assuring Johnny she will

Pulling A Fast One: Nicole (Arianne Zucker) secretly miscarried her baby with EJ, but lied that she was still pregnant, and with the help of Dr. Baker (John Callahan), procured a daughter to pass off as her own.

PAUL SKIPPER/JPI

How is Kate coping with being held captive on the fishing boat? Lauren Koslow says:

"Kate is a survivor. That never changes. She never sees herself as a victim. You can't defeat her in that way. She always keeps going, and she is going to find her way out of this."

XJJOHNSON/JPI

WHAT WILL HAPPEN

- Alex opens up to Stephanie.
- Belle confides in Kayla.
- Xander shares his guilt over Susan's death with Chloe.

return home soon, Tripp suggests that Wendy stay a little longer to be with him. Wendy then admits she likes both Tripp and Johnny, but she can't predict the future on who might win her over. They share a kiss.

Johnny shows up at Chanel's door, worrying that Wendy has chosen Tripp. After giving Johnny advice, Chanel mentions she had a date with Talia, and wonders if Talia is into her. Later, Talia surprises Chanel with a romantic gesture.

IT'S A SECRET

Nicole asks EJ why he doesn't seem angry about her sleeping with Eric. EJ says he knows it meant nothing. While EJ tells Tony that Nicole slept with Eric, Nicole confides her secret about being pregnant to Anna. Later, Nicole makes a call to schedule the paternity test.

OH, BROTHER

Sloan apologizes to Eric for blurting to EJ about his under-the-influence tryst with Nicole. After, she is called down to the station by Rafe after Paulina's recent threatening text.

Jada questions Colin about Talia leaving his room. Colin admits to nothing; Jada vows that she will find out what his game is. Back at the station, Sloan blasts Paulina. After, when Sloan overhears Jada telling Rafe about Colin, she heads out to confront her brother.

Talia reassures Chanel that she is into her and opens up to Chanel about her past. Talia then pulls Chanel into a kiss. Paulina interrupts; an unnerved Talia takes off. Paulina stuns Chanel by telling her that the police briefly considered Talia as a suspect. Chanel insists Talia wouldn't hurt her.

Jada confronts Talia about how she was spotted at the White Dove Motel. Talia makes up a story about how she did see Colin, her ex from New York, but it was no big deal.

Sloan lets Colin know that she figured out he's been behind everything that's happened to Chanel and Paulina. Colin doesn't deny it. Sloan then opens up about her new relationship with Eric and how Colin is putting it at risk. Seeing her rare vulnerability, Colin agrees to back off. Later, Talia updates Colin on her progress with Chanel, which tempts Colin to continue his plans of revenge.

IN REVIEW

Stefan and Gabi take delight in letting EJ know that Nicole's performance evaluation of Stefan has been submitted. He realizes they rewrote Nicole's report and made it a glowing account — at the same time his own evaluation by Gabi has been submitted, making EJ look bad. EJ gets a call from Shin, which goes from bad to worse. □

general hospital

GHOST STORY

Drew and Laura infiltrate Victor's bunker in Greenland. He discovers them and reveals his plan to unleash the deadly pathogen. To prove its efficacy, he shows them the video feed of an ailing Valentin. Valentin is visited by the ghost of Helena, who draws him ever closer to death.

HUMBLE PIE

Carly's card is declined when she tries to pay for pie at Kelly's; she learns her assets have been frozen by the SEC. Nina, who is there to meet Ava, offers to pick up her tab and it is awkward among the women. Later, Nina squirms over Sonny's determination to find out who ratted out Carly and Drew.

PARENT RAP

Michael rushes Willow to G.H. after she collapses. Tracy and Brook Lynn stay with Wiley and Amelia and discuss Tracy's secret role in Chase's reinstatement. TJ determines that Willow must remain in a sterile environment at G.H. Carly informs Nina and Sonny. Willow asks Nina to let go of her vendetta against Carly. Nina promises to do so. Willow implores Michael not to use the evidence he now has against Sonny to send his father to jail. Joss brings Dex with her when she escorts Amelia and Wiley to G.H. Dex tries to deal with the complicated dynamics in Joss's family. After a debilitating round of chemo, Willow comes to in isolation; Michael, Amelia and Wiley wave to her through the window.

POISON CONTROL

Robert and Felicia are alarmed when they learn the WSB has sent bombers to Greenland. There, Curtis beseeches Trina and Spencer to flee with Ace while he remains behind to free his friends in the bunker.

Laura, Drew and Obrecht stand off against Victor and his henchmen. Anna bursts in to help save the day, followed by Curtis, who tends to an injured Laura while Victor takes off with Liesl — and the pathogen. Holly finds Victor and trains a gun on him (and reveals that she is responsible for his impotency); Drew attacks Victor from behind, but he gets away. An injured Obrecht reveals that she swiped the antidote. Anna is overjoyed when Holly delivers the cure to Valentin in the nick of time. Drew calls Carly to say he's headed home with Obrecht.

LET IT SNOW

Laura and Curtis race to figure out how

flashback to 2012

Freeze Play: Lucy's (Lynn Herring, l., with Marc Anthony Samuel as Felix and Teresa Castillo as Sabrina) assets were frozen when she stood accused of running a pyramid scheme with Coe-Coe Cosmetics.

RON TOM/ABC

How does Valentin feel when he lays eyes on Helena (Constance Towers)? James Patrick Stuart says:

"It's emotional for Valentin, because she comes to him when he's pretty much at death's door. He's already deeply sad and deeply lonely and regretting his choices. He sees her and thinks she's come to take him across the River Styx."

XJ JOHNSON/JPI

to shut down a machine reminiscent of Mikkos's original weapon of environmental destruction. Back in Port Charles, Elizabeth and Portia are puzzled when snow begins to fall. In the bunker, Laura figures out the password and shuts down the machine.

ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL

Trina and Spencer make contact with Jordan and learn about the bombers. Curtis calls Robert, who directs the WSB to target the yacht instead of the island. Spencer spies Victor running toward the yacht and takes off after him. *The Haunted Star* explodes as Trina screams out for Spencer. A body is recovered; it's Victor's. Laura and Valentin say their final good-byes to their nemesis. Trina is overwhelmed with emotion when she spots Spencer; she runs into his arms.

LIP SERVICE

Robert and Diane's connection deepens. Diane is called away and Robert is surprised when Holly shows up. She confesses that her near-death experience in Greenland has forced her to assess her feelings for him and she kisses him. Diane returns in time to see their lip lock.

DECKED OUT

Sonny hires Diane to defend Carly. Carly asks Dante to investigate the charges she and Drew face. Dante and Sam ponder who tipped off the SEC. Meanwhile, Ned vehemently protests his innocence as his family members discuss whether he is guilty of siccing the SEC on Carly and Drew. Olivia and Brook Lynn are skeptical of Ned's claim. Tracy also thinks Ned did it and tells him that she approves of his actions. Drew returns to the mansion and punches Ned. □

WHAT WILL HAPPEN

- Josslyn visits Willow.
- Dex is thrown.
- Nina weighs her options.
- Scott is relieved.
- Michael makes a big decision.

young and restless

TUCKER IN

Devon informs Abby that Ashley invited Tucker to move into the Abbott home. Later, Abby tells her mother that she is going to regret getting closer with Tucker.

BROTHER LOAD

Adam and Chelsea chat at Crimson Lights. He opines that it's time to tell Connor about Sally's baby. Later, Chelsea and Adam inform Connor that he is going to have a little sister.

HOME FRONT

Daniel talks to Summer and says they need to tell the truth that Phyllis is alive, bring her home, and prove Diane is innocent.

At home, Ashley blasts Jack for getting Diane out on bail.

WINTERS' TALE

At the event for Neil Winters at the GCAC Lounge, Lily and Devon remember Drucilla and Neil with Victor, Nikki and Sharon. Mariah expresses her condolences to Daniel about Phyllis, while Abby fishes for information from Daniel about him and Lily. Later, Devon's mother, Harmony, unexpectedly shows up. Harmony informs Devon that Tucker helped facilitate her arrival to the event. Victor toasts to Neil, then privately expresses his approval of Abby and Devon as a couple. Malcolm surprises everyone by coming to celebrate Neil. After some reflection, Devon informs Harmony, Malcolm, Abby, Lily and Nate that he would like to take Neil's last name of Winters.

Mariah assures Kyle that he will find a way forward with Summer and Diane. Later, Kyle encourages Summer to come home with him and insists that they will figure things out together.

HEAR ME ROAR

After talking to Mariah, Elena realizes that she needs to move on from Nate. Meanwhile, Nate reveals to Sharon that he has made mistakes that have hurt Elena. Sharon suggests to Nate that he may be able to repair the damage he has done. Later, in Nate's bedroom, Elena smashes a photo of her and Nate and prepares to move out of the penthouse.

At the coffeehouse, Elena informs Audra that she confronted Nate and Victoria in Los Angeles and her relationship with Nate is over. Audra suggests that getting J.T. to come to town for Elena's podcast would be the perfect revenge against Victoria.

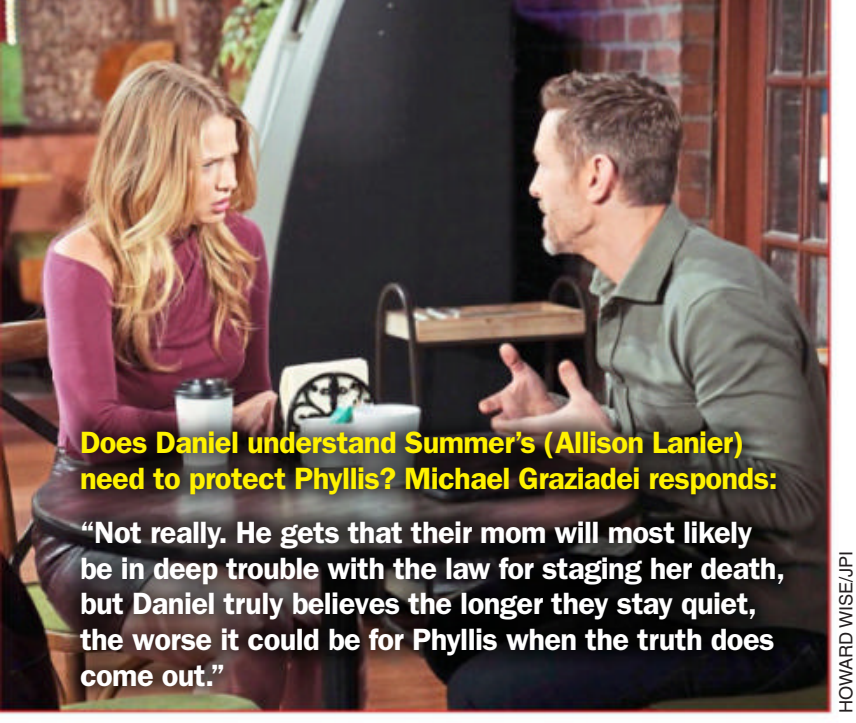
MOODY BLUES

At Society, Adam and Chelsea agree that Connor has been moody ever since

flashback to 2010

Dirty Dog: Abby's (then-Emme Rylan) animosity for Tucker (then-Stephen Nichols) began when she suspected he cheated on Ashley with Diane, which proved to be correct.

SEAN SMITH/JPI



Does Daniel understand Summer's (Allison Lanier) need to protect Phyllis? Michael Graziadei responds:

"Not really. He gets that their mom will most likely be in deep trouble with the law for staging her death, but Daniel truly believes the longer they stay quiet, the worse it could be for Phyllis when the truth does come out."

HOWARD WISE/JPI

they told him that he would be getting a baby sister. Later, Billy suggests to Chelsea that they plan an outing with Johnny and Connor to try to cheer Connor up.

Sally and Chloe receive word from Jill that their business plans with her are on hold indefinitely. After hearing about her setback, Adam offers Sally a job working for him at McCall Unlimited. Later, in the park, Sally fills in Nick about Adam's job offer. Nick asserts that Adam is trying to exercise control over her.

FAMILY MATTERS

At Society, when Adam taunts Tucker about taking over McCall Unlimited, Ashley defends Tucker to Adam.

Victoria admits to Nikki that things have become more personal between her and Nate. Later, Nick asks Victoria why she believes Nate will be loyal to her when he was not loyal to his family or Elena.

Adam tells Victor at Chancellor Park that he will accept the CEO position at McCall Unlimited but Victor needs to back off and allow him to run things on his own.

LEAN ON ME

At Crimson Lights, Sharon encourages Summer to lean on the people who love her as she is processing her grief. Summer urges Daniel to hold off telling anyone Phyllis is alive so they can figure out a plan. Later, Chance tells Daniel that he believes they will get justice for Phyllis's murder.

HOW DOES IT FEEL?

Jack tells Ashley that he believes she has real feelings for Tucker but is scared to be vulnerable with him.

At the Abbott manse, Tucker suggests to Diane that he could help her escape house arrest and leave town. Jack comes home later and gives Diane a pep talk. Diane expresses her resolve to fight the charges against her.

After speaking with Summer, Daniel texts Jack and asks to meet with him.

SUPPORT SYSTEM

When Sally informs Chloe about Adam's offer to hire them both, Chloe tells Sally that she does not wish to work for Adam again. At Chancellor Park, Nick confronts Adam about his offer to Sally, and Adam accuses Nick of falsely acting as if he will be there for Sally. □

SUDOKU ANSWERS

9	8	3	6	4	5	7	1	2
2	4	7	1	8	9	3	6	5
6	5	1	7	3	2	8	4	9
4	1	8	5	9	6	2	7	3
7	9	2	4	1	3	5	8	6
3	6	5	8	2	7	4	9	1
5	7	4	2	6	1	9	3	8
8	3	6	9	5	4	1	2	7
1	2	9	3	7	8	6	5	4

ask us
we've got the answers

They Did: At one point, B&B's Wyatt (Darin Brooks) and Steffy (Jacqueline MacInnes Wood) were husband and wife.

HOWARD WISE/JPI

Q On B&B, weren't both Hope and Steffy involved romantically with Wyatt? Could you please give me the backstory? This was before I started watching. Also, wasn't Hope engaged to Thomas long before she got involved with Liam and he became obsessed with her? As always, thanx *SOD*! Longtime subscriber and reader.

Marcy E., Wayne, NJ

A Thanks, Marcy! You are correct. In 2013, Hope was smitten after she spied Wyatt showering in the woods, and he was attracted to her, too. Things got complicated when it was revealed that Wyatt and Liam were half brothers. Wyatt wooed Hope and the pair spontaneously wed in Monte Carlo in 2014. Their happiness, however, was short-lived. Hope became pregnant but after an argument with her monster-in-law, Quinn, Hope fell and lost the baby. Devastated, Hope left Wyatt and fled to Italy. The following year, Wyatt journeyed there to salvage his marriage but it was too late, and he and Hope divorced. Meanwhile, in 2016, Liam suffered amnesia and Quinn kidnapped him and held him hostage in a remote cabin, knowing Wyatt would grow closer to a devastated Steffy. Quinn manipulated the situation to make it look like Liam had left Steffy, so she and Wyatt took the plunge and wed on the beach in Malibu. The marriage fell apart when Liam regained his memory and reunited with Steffy. Wyatt graciously stepped aside. As for Hope and Thomas, in 2011, Steffy plotted to split up Liam and Hope by encouraging her brother to propose to Hope. In 2012, he did, but Hope let him town gently, stating she was still devoted to Liam.

twin peek

I recently started binge-watching NEW AMSTERDAM. There's an actor on the show, Tyler Labine, who I think looks like B&B's Scott Clifton [Liam]. I think that even their voices sound the same. Could you please publish side-by-side photos of them?

Donna H., Maple Glen, PA

Labine

Clifton

VIRGINIA SHERWOOD/NBC; GILLES TOUCAS/COURTESY OF BELL-PHILLIP PRODUCTIONS INC.

Q **Regarding B&B, has any other actress played Taylor besides Hunter Tylo and Krista Allen?**

Marty B., via email

A In 1990, Sherilyn Wolter (ex-Celia, GH, et al) briefly stepped in as a temporary recast for Tylo.

Q **I read there was a character on GH in the 1980s called Dimitri Cassadine. What was his connection to the Cassadine family and what was his story?**

Robert D., via email

A In 1986, Michael Carvin played Dimitri, who was a cousin of Mikkos Cassadine. He plotted with Sean Donely to bilk the Quartermaines out of their fortune, but double-crossed Sean and, once he drained the Qs' coffers, Dimitri absconded with their millions to Brazil.

Q **I remember many years ago when Y&R's Nikki and her daughter, Victoria, both slept with Cole. Are there any other mothers and daughters on the canvas now who've had sex with the same man?**

A.L., via email

A Nikki and Victoria also hit the sheets with Deacon, and both bedded Brad. Ashley and Abby slept with Ben, and Phyllis and Summer have Billy in common.

Got a question or "Twin Peeks" suggestion for the staff of *Soap Opera Digest*?

Please send all Ask Us requests to **SODask@soapoperadigest.com**. Or if you prefer snail mail, send correspondence to: ***Soap Opera Digest***
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SOUND OFF

What's on your mind?

ROMANCE REPORT

One of the greatest moments in all my decades of daytime viewing was Hope finding Bo alive on DAYS. His intense pain as he slowly recalled the memories of their deep, forever love was so honest and palpable, my heart broke for both of them. When he finally uttered "Fancy Face", I sobbed out loud, and then when he was shot, I thought it was over just like that. Peter Reckell and Kristian Alfonso embodied all the emotions Bo and Hope had shared for so many years, and they both deserve equal accolades for their superb acting. Everyone in this world deserves to be loved like that, but not many can. Only Luke and Laura on GH have had such an impact on my heart. The writing has been amazing on DAYS of late, and I can't give enough credit to everyone involved.

Eve, Scotia, NY

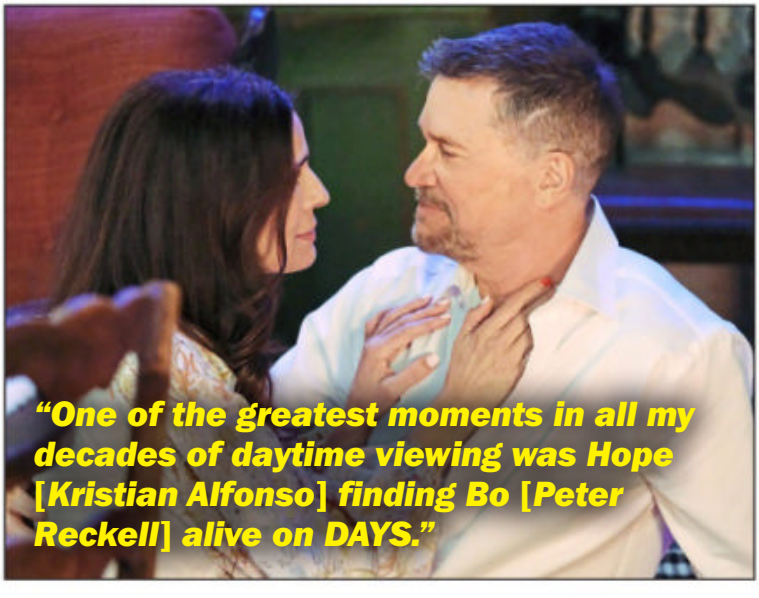
FARE YOU WELL

There would be no Y&R without Eric Braeden. Clearly, cancer hasn't met Victor Newman or it wouldn't dare mess with this great man and actor! God bless you, Sir, and just know you've got this and we've got you. You are loved, appreciated and wished nothing but the best! Sending hugs and prayers your way!

B.J. Teixeira, Chi Hts, IL

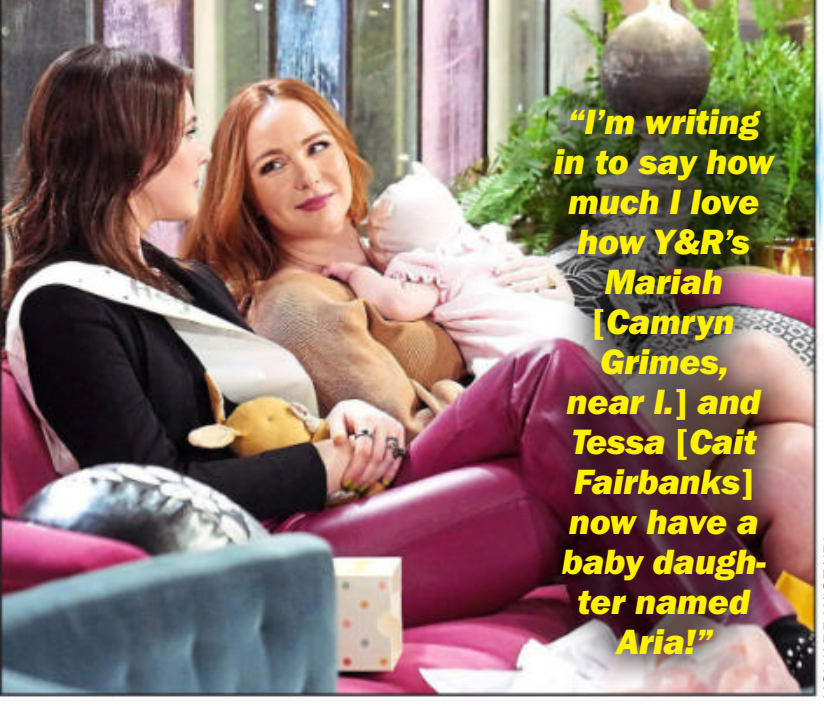
AND BABY MAKES THREE

I'm writing in to say how much I love how Y&R's Mariah and Tessa now have a baby daughter named Aria! That's such a beautiful name and they're such a beautiful family! Watching them from the beginning and seeing how far they've come as a couple and now as a family, they are so amazing to watch and they are definitely a historic, epic couple. I hope that Y&R continues to highlight them because that is such sweet must-see TV! I love how Tessa said, "I feel in some cosmic way she chose us." That's what makes soaps worth watching — happy moments like that! That completely makes you melt each time! Priceless! Thank



"One of the greatest moments in all my decades of daytime viewing was Hope [Kristian Alfonso] finding Bo [Peter Reckell] alive on DAYS."

XJ JOHNSON/JPI



"I'm writing in to say how much I love how Y&R's Mariah [Camryn Grimes, near l.] and Tessa [Cait Fairbanks] now have a baby daughter named Aria!"

HOWARD WISE/JPI

you, Y&R writers! Please continue with as much Mariah, Tessa and Aria as possible! We love them so much! Beautiful job!

C.S. in Canada

RUSH JOB

Did anyone else notice how GH accelerated the Robert/Diane story — not so coincidentally just before Holly's return to Port Charles? All of a sudden they couldn't turn a corner without bumping into each other. And that car breakdown trope was not exactly an organic way to develop a relationship. After Holly walked in on them, Diane later griped to Alexis about the "ex-wife". Of course, she could not possibly know about Robert and Holly's decades of love, separation and their complicated history that goes back 40 years. Because Holly's portrayer, Emma Samms, only signed for a short-arc story, lives in England and is still coping with Long Covid, those factors don't seem to point to a happily ever after for the couple. But *Digest*'s recent Reader Poll overwhelmingly indicated that Holly was the woman for Robert, so I think the writers would be wise to tread carefully where his love life is concerned and take the viewers' feelings into account.

J.A., via email

BURN, BABY BURN

The slow-burn relationship between GH's Spencer and Trina has been one of the slowest of slow-burns. But in these last few weeks on *The Haunted Star*, in the midst of a new generation Ice Princess story, that relationship has caught on fire. It has gone from me counting down the days to their first kiss and hug, to being spoiled and delighted by the ease at which the hugs and kisses come now. As they try to figure out a way to stay alive, their bond is growing stronger and stronger. While the love declarations have yet to come, the sweet conversations, face holding, hugs and even nose-rubbing, have made this must-see TV. On the day when those "I love yous" take place, I know that they will be handled masterfully and effortlessly by Nicholas Alexander Chavez and Tabyana Ali, the two wonderful young actors who have made "Sprina" a true supercouple right up there with the best.

Beverly B., Winston-Salem, NC

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MAILBAG

AROUND THE DIAL

Kathy P. in St. Charles, MO, cheers, "OMG! I remember when Lauren Koslow took over the role of DAYS's Kate. She was thought dead, but ended up on a boat, cleaning fish, and ... here we are. You just knew she wasn't dead. I'm so happy! Lauren is one of my favorite actors on the show, and she is so good at her craft. I'm glad they have softened her character and put her with Roman, they play off of each other well." ... Ronnie M., San Jose, CA, points out, "This has to do with any soap on TV and it has bothered me for a long time. Would it be so hard to put some water (or even rocks) in the coffee cups the actors carry around when we, the viewers, know they are completely empty? And when was the last time anyone handed you a cup of 'hot' coffee, only to have you immediately take a sip without even testing it? A little more realism would be appreciated and, if that's not possible, then thanks for at least letting me vent." ... Anne H. in Greensboro, NC, notes, "I wonder why the Forresters, Logans, Spencers and Finnegans [on B&B] are all so sure that Sheila will spend the rest of her life behind bars, never seeing the light of day again. Hasn't she been in very similar situations before? The very fact that they all keep throwing it in her face is almost a certainty that she'll be out before they — and we — know it."

YOU SAID IT!

"Just a thought: Why not bring [DAYS's] Theresa and Tate back to Salem? [Brady] has a family with them. Rachel and Kristen can flee Salem. Theresa loved him and ran away to protect him. Makes sense to me. Rachel is a mini-Kristen."

— C.M., Orange, CT

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TAKE FIVE

Katelyn MacMullen
(Willow, GH)

■ *Who is the last co-star you texted?* "I'm in a group chat with Chad [Duell, Michael], Evan [Hofer, Dex] and Eden [McCoy, Josslyn], and right before that, I was texting Sofia [Mattsson, Sasha]."

■ *What emoji do you use the most?* "The heart eyes."

■ *What was your favorite movie when you were little?* "I love everything Disney. It's like a first-place tie between every Disney movie."

■ *How do you take your coffee?* "I do a *café au lait*, so black coffee with steamed oat milk."

■ *What's your favorite museum?* "The Met in New York City."

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